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DPRK, Russian Officials Fail To Reach Accord

SK1505024194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea and Russia had talks here recently on the loggers, nuclear and other pending issues but failed reach any substantial accord on key matters, a diplomatic source here said on Saturday. The meeting took place between visiting North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu and his Russian counterpart, Vice Minister Aleksandr Panov, on May 12-13.

On the loggers issue, the source said, Yi reiterated the Pyongyang stand that North Korean law, too, should be applied to their loggers in Siberia because he argued they are not simple foreigners but workers engaged in a specific duty agreed on between the two countries.

Vice Minister Panov was said to have rejected the North Korean demand, stressing that all foreigners staying in Russia are subject to human rights protection under Russian law regardless of the purpose of their stay in Russia.

As they failed to iron out their difference, the two officials decided to seek a compromise agreement during the meeting set to take place in Pyongyang shortly to discuss the question of concluding a new logging agreement.

Also at the meeting, Yi complained South Korea tries to induce some of their loggers in Russia to defect to South Korea, asking Russia to foil the scheme. Panov rejected the North Korean argument, telling them to produce the evidences, if any, of such scheme, the source said.

On the nuclear question, the Russian vice minister advised North Korea to accept international inspection of their nuclear facilities, the source said. He also urged Yi to see to it that his country accept a meeting of eight countries Russia had proposed to discuss the nuclear issue.

In reaction, the North Korean said that his country's policy is to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue and that they would affirmative study the idea of eight countries meeting once the idea takes a concrete shape.

In the economic area, the two sides agreed to take a set of steps to reinvigorate their hitherto sluggish economic cooperation.

The measures they agreed included the promotion of joint-venture schemes and industrial partnership in the far east area of Russia, and staging of economy-related meetings often.

The North Korean vice minister further expressed concern about South Korean Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae's visit to Moscow last April.

Vice Minister Panov said Yi's visit was part of military exchanges between two neighboring countries, the source said.

Assembly Urges Recognition of Damage to Baltics

LD1505153394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The Baltic Assembly urged Russia to recognize its responsibility for the damage caused by the USSR to the Baltic states during the occupation years. This was stated in the resolution on relations with Russia adopted by the Baltic Assembly. The session of the assembly finished in Jurmala today.

The resolution called on the Russian leadership to stop psychological pressure on Estonia and to withdraw the Russian troops by August 31, 1994. The resolution also demanded that Russian recognize the unsettled territorial problems in relations with Latvia and Estonia created by the USSR and refrain from pressure on the Baltic states when signing and implementing mutual treaties. The Baltic Assembly insisted that Russia officially recognize the fact of occupation of the Baltic states by the USSR in 1940.

The assembly adopted one more statement saying that any threat or form of pressure against one of the Baltic states will be regarded as that against all of them. This document appeared after the recent statement by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on possible introduction of additional Russian military contingency to Estonia.

A total of 108 documents were adopted by the assembly. This includes the treaty on cooperation between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the provision on the Baltic Council of Ministers and agreements on cooperation in the sphere of energy supply, environment and others.

The Baltic Assembly confirmed the preparedness to cooperate with the Western European Union and NATO and with Western Europe countries.

The present session elected new leadership of the assembly. Lithuanian parliament's Vice Speaker Egidijus Bickauskas was elected its President.

The Baltic Assembly is the inter-parliamentary consultative and coordinating body uniting Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. It was set up in the end of 1992.

Yeltsin Under G-7 Pressure To Urge Chernobyl Closing

PM1305102994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Vladimir Gubarev article: "The Russian Atom and the American Ultimatum"]

[Text] It is already clear that the G-7 countries, to whose meeting in Naples Boris Yeltsin has been invited, has prepared a surprise or, to be more accurate, an ultimatum for him. The Russian president will have, together with his partners, to advocate the shutting down of the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station]: Yeltsin's influence on Ukraine, it is said, will be crucial.... He will then be required to provide guarantees that Russian AESes where high-power pressure-tube reactors are in use will also be gradually withdrawn from operation. If Yeltsin does not agree, the Western countries "will deny aid." A similar ulltimatum has already been received by Ukraine: Economic aid to Kiev now depends directly on the shutdown of the Chernobyl AES reactors.

The "softening-up fire" prior to the decisive attack on the nuclear power industry of Ukraine and Russia was carried out at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] session of experts held in Vienna. It is common knowledge that a commission set up by this international organization analyzed the condition of the Chernobyl AES. And although commission members were unable to prepare their findings prior to the Vienna conference and did not present their conclusions, the IAEA's decision was conclusive: It is essential to close down the reactors at Chernobyl and shut down the station, because it is "too old." The IAEA and other international organizations will help run other Ukrainian AESes only if Chernobyl is shut down. The IAEA is making precisely those recommendations in the runup to the G-7 meeting in Naples. The IAEA leadership is in a hurry: Only a little time remains before July, so they have decided not to wait for the special commission's findings.

The Ukrainian delegation has naturally disagreed with the IAEA. Western countries promised assistance, particularly as regards modernizing the power units at Chernobyl, a long time ago, but not a single dollar has been forthcoming. And to dismiss the AES at Chernobyl as "old reactors" is, to put it mildly, unjust. For the last two years the AESes of Russia and Ukraine have operated more stably and reliably than those in America, France, Sweden, and Germany. It is those countries which are the leaders in terms of the number of times safety systems have been activated. And the term "old" can only make specialists smile. More than 150 nuclear power units, of which around 50 are in the United States, are far "older" than the high-power pressure-tube reactors. Consequently, when they were designed and built, the safety requirements were quite different: Not a single one of those units meets requirements.

What, then, has produced the attack on the former USSR's nuclear power industry? The point is that in market relations economics and politics are closely allied. Russia, for example, has quit the arms markets. And now the United States sells weapons in countries which previously looked to us.

Uranium is next in line. Here competition is very tough, because selling uranium is a profitable business: It is small wonder that our country has always been subject to restrictions. The shutting down of reactors will enable Western and U.S. firms to penetrate not just East Europe but Ukraine and Russia too. Again, we are talking about billions of dollars.

Unfortunately, we ourselves are aiding and abetting our Western competitors. Russia's nuclear power stations receive scant finance. Loans to carry out maintenance and modernization are lacking and wages are constantly paid late. Where else could you find a country where the staff of nuclear power stations such as the Kursk AES have received no wages for six months and have declared a hunger strike in protest? Highly skilled specialists in any other country are not just well paid but are the state's pride and joy.... Perhaps we should accept the "ultimatum" of the world's leading countries and close down the AESes? But we must realize that we would then turn from being an exporter to an importer of energy. And no one will supply us with energy for free. So are we going to live by candlelight?

CSCE, Armenian, Azerbaijan Officials Meet on Karabakh Issue

LD1605043094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0403 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 16—The military leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh are meeting in Moscow today to compare notes, with the mediation of the Russian Federation, on further steps towards the settlement around Karabakh.

The CSCE's Minsk conference on Karabakh Jan Eliasson [as received] told ITAR-TASS in Moscow that he hopes that the forthcoming Moscow meeting will become an important phase in the process of the settlement of the Karabakh issue. Eliasson called for the participation of international observers in ensuring the implementation of the ceasefire accords. The mechanism of international verification was in the focus of the consultations held by the joint mission of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Russia in the region.

The Russian president's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, and the leaders of Armenia's defence ministry and the Karabakh army flew to Moscow from Yerevan on Sunday night to join the conference on Monday.

Tbilisi, Ossetia Agree To Talk Under Russian Mediation

MK1405115094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 94 p 1

[Liana Minasyan report under the "Settlement" rubric: "South Ossetian Issue: Russia Is the Sole Mediator. Quadrilateral Talks Loom Ahead"]

[Text] A Georgian-Ossetian meeting (including both South Ossetia and North Ossetia) devoted to the problems of refugees and those subjected to forcible resettlement has been held in Vladikavkaz at the initiative of the CSCE mission. The meeting was attended by Aleksandr Tsvetkov, chief of the CSCE mission (Ukraine); Vazha Khachapuridze, plenipotentiary representative of the Georgian head of state; Znaur Gassiyev, first deputy chairman of the South Ossetia Supreme Soviet; and Yuriy Sedakov, chairman of the North Ossetia parliamentary committee for national policy and foreign affairs.

The sides concluded that the return of refugees has been complicated by the absence of a political settlement to the Ossetian-Georgian conflict, and agreed on the need immediately to set up expert groups to prepare quadrilateral talks between Georgia, South and North Ossetia, and Russia.

One of the most complex matters in the upcoming talks will be the state and legal status of South Ossetia. By the time the negotiations begin, a protocol of intentions will be signed, modeled on the Dagomys agreement on South Ossetia, and a range of matters to be discussed will be determined. North Ossetia took an active part in the preparation of the current meeting because, according to Yuriy Sedakov, the practice where hostilities have ended, but talks have not yet started, may lead to yet another round of tensions.

The second contentious matter—the status of peacekeeping forces—has also yet to be resolved. It is known that members of the CSCE mission question the legality of the current trilateral status of these forces because they include former combatants.

However, Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian parliament, thinks otherwise: he is even ready to admit that the Tskhinvali procedure for deploying peacekeeping forces may be repeated in Abkhazia. He said: "Similar problems—separatism and status—require similar solutions. But they cannot be absolutely identical. The same problems will be discussed in both Georgian- Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian negotiations, the only difference being our approach—we oppose the internationalization of the Ossetian problem and raising it to the level of the CSCE or the United Nations. Russia will be the sole mediator in the settlement of this problem."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 May

LD1405080494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 14 May 94

["Russian National Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 14 ITAR-TASS—Most national newspapers continue to cover and comment on President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Germany and his meeting with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says that as a result of the successful visit Russia is now entering a new phase in relations with the West, and not as a loser. "But let us not give in to illusions. The new stage in relations with the West will not be simple. Our policy is now facing a double danger of lingering confrontational prejudices on the one hand and a belief in exclusively good-natured intentions of our partners on the other".

Russia's federal budget approved by the State Duma on first reading is another subject highlighted by many newspapers. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI quotes Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin as saying "even prejudiced observers cannot fault the government in this case. We expect the deficit of the federal budget to reach 68.8 trillion roubles, not to exceed 9.5 percent of the gross domestic product. The expenditures are increased by 10.1 trillion roubles to amount to a total of 103.3 trillion roubles. Revenues will grow on a more modest scale, by 3.7 trillion roubles, to amount to a total of 124 trillion roubles." The minister added that "culture and health services will get an additional 968.4 billion roubles, and the allocations to support the mass media, particularly radio and television, will increase by 434 billion roubles."

State Duma Economic committee Chairman Sergey Glazyev disagrees. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA quotes him as saying at a press conference that "the government has not made any substantial modifications in the budget. The policy behind the budget is to share out the resources between the fuel-and-energy and the agricultural sectors. It completely ignores the priorities set forth in the president's message on the state of the nation, which call for support of the science-intense industries and conversion of the defence industries to civilian production".

PRAVDA is sceptical about the draft federal budget: "Can one really rely on the articles of the budget, while the slump in production slides to 50 percent and while inflation gallops ahead of any forecasts of its mythical decline? How are factories and plants expected to pay taxes if they are not working?"

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA cites informed sources as saying that "on the desk of the president of the Russian Federation there lies a decree, already signed by Boris Yeltsin, dismissing Sergey Shakhray as the minister of nationalities, while retaining him as vice- premier in the Government of the Russian Federation". The newspaper believes that "Shakhray's resignation is due to the struggle between the regional elites of the north and the south. Being a minister, Shakhray succeeded in obtaining the endorsement of several agreements on the development of the northern territories, as a result of which the south was deprived of some state orders and budget infusions".

Shakhray himself explains in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI why the government adopted a resolution to change the mechanism of state support and supplies of goods and foods to northern areas of the country. He says in particular that "the disruption of economic ties in the far northern areas and territories equal to them, sharp cuts in mining for raw materials, including oil, and the growth of transportation rates have placed under threat the delivery of vitally important goods to the population of the region". Shakhray also says that "many needs of the northerners are fully met only through supplies from other parts of the country. In the eighties, these supplies were financed through the crediting system, which is no longer possible at present".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an article by State Duma international affairs committee Chairman Vladimir Lukin, who says that "lately our foreign policy has been getting rid—fully in words and to a certain degree in deeds—from its pro-Western orientation. But there still remain many problems which have yet to be resolved on the path of overcoming this infantile syndrome".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA continues to comment of the "case" of Army General Valentin Varennikov who rejected the recent amnesty and is now working toward the institution of criminal proceedings against those who are to blame for the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The newspaper publishes an interview with Valentin Varennikov's defence lawyer Dmitriy Steinberg, who thinks that a new trial would not be long. "True. Everything will depend on whether the people whose testimony the court wants to hear, including (former Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev, will choose to turn up for questioning," the newspaper comments.

U.S., Japan Drop Objection to G-7 Participation

LD1505053794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0508 GMT 15 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo May 15—Russia will take part for the first time in a political summit of the G-7 countries scheduled in Naples on July 8-10. All G-7 members-states, including Japan and the United States, which had earlier objected to this, agreed to such a modification of the previous formula "seven plus one", under which the Russian leader met G-7 leaders after the programme of the G-7 summit was comleted, the TOKYO SHIMBUN said today with reference to sources from the Japanese Government.

The political discussion is expected to focus on the situation on the Korean peninsula, in connection with suspicions that North Korea is involved in the development of nuclear weapons, the Bosnian crisis, the progress of peaceful settlement in the Middle East, war in Yemen and the situation in South Africa following presidential elections. The problem of North Korea might be brought up in light of strengthening the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons not only in asia, but in the whole world.

Russia's problem will be discussed only at an economic conference of G-7 leaders. The discussion is expected to focus on the expansion of the framework of aid to Russia as it switches over to the market economy.

Joint measures taken by the G-7 countries in combating organised crime in the world are expected to be high on the agenda of the economic conference, and in particular, preventing the practice of money laundering by drug dealers and drug trafficking.

The TOKYO SHIMBUN newspaper pointed out that Russia's participation would make some corrections in final documents of the Naples summit. "In respect of the stance taken by Japan and the United States" G-7 member-states decided not to adopt a traditional political declaration, but outline the course of the discussion in a brief statement made by Italy which would chair the summit.

Kozyrev Satisfied With Progress Toward 'G-8'

LD1405140394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1305 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 14 May—Russia is actively involved in preparing the final document of the summit of the seven leading countries in the West and the Russian Federation, which will be held in Naples in July.

Andrey Kozyrev told journalists in Geneva today that the first consultations of representatives of foreign policy departments was recently held in Italy. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov took part in them on the Russian side. "The sessions were positive, we have already put forward our proposals regarding the text of the document, and other countries have also presented their proposals," the head of Russian diplomats said. "Thus, practical work is under way to draw up the final document of the 'G-8' regarding issues of the world's security policy. I think we are on the right track here."

Commenting on the process for linking Russia to the new export control system intended to replace Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls], the minister observed that in that respect the dialogue had not yet reached the necessary level. Russian experts "are not as yet directly involved in the work, although we do have assurances from the American side." "Additional complications have arisen" in this regard. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov recently met his counterparts from the United States. The same question was discussed today during a conversation with Warren Christopher. "It was confirmed once more that the next meeting of experts to draft the new COCOM regime will take place with the direct participation of Russia," Andrey Kozyrev pointed out. "I said quite unequivocally: We shall be simply unable to join in a regime that has been drafted without our equal participation."

Kozyrev on Moscow's Program for NATO Cooperation

LD1405161394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The working document that needs to be signed to join in NATO's Partnership for Peace program is not enough for Russia. This was stated in Geneva today by Andrey Kozyrev. According to him the NATO document is very abstract and is of a preliminary character. Kozyrev stated that Moscow is preparing its own program for cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance. It consists of three component parts and covers matters relating to cooperation between military departments, conversion, and interaction in the sphere of peacekeeping.

2 Documents To Be Signed

LD1305131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels May 13 TASS—Russia and NATO will possibly sign two documents on cooperation simultaneously: a framework document on the "Partnership for Peace" programme and a bilateral programme for partnership, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS here on Friday after today's meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary-General Gebhardt von Moltke.

In the opinion of the deputy minister this "should remove misunderstandings and apprehensions on both sides".

"I have developed an impression that NATO started to understand better after the recent events around the Bosnian city of Gorazde that real partnership presupposes serious preliminary consulations with Russia before taking decisions," he added.

"Partnership for Peace is only a part of the general picture of our cooperation, although an important one," the deputy minister continued. "In this case, the sides should find a true correlation between the principle of equality of all countries wishing to join the programme for multilateral cooperation and the objective account of Russia's role and position."

Therefore, the sides will put signatures under the multilateral document already signed by 16 NATO countries and 18 east European states, including eight former Soviet republics, on the one hand, and a bilateral programme of partnership between NATO and Russia, determining specific parameters of cooperation, on the other.

"Regrettably," Adamishin noted, "there is much confusion about the multilateral document in our country. In actual fact, it is a statement of intention to cooperate and not to conduct hostile actions.

"If we compare it with the trade and economic sphere, it is 'a protocol of intent' which should be specified and amplified. But it does not impose any obligations on either side to take joint decisions, to conduct joint operations or to standardise weapons. That is, it does not tie our hands."

The bilateral document can and must be more specific, and NATO, according to Von Moltke, is waiting with great interest for the Russian side's ideas on this issue.

"Nobody will be able and does not intend to thrust upon us anything in the bilateral programme, which would not suit Russia," Adamishin stressed.

The deputy minister said that at today's talks, the NATO leadership spoke of serious importance it attaches to cooperation with Russia and of a desire to expand it, especially through contacts between the military.

This would help the two sides "to forget the image of an enemy". NATO already reveals some secrets to Russia, which were a relish piece for intelligence services in the recent past: data banks, codes, means of communications, etc.

Military and political contacts under the aegis of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council are also fruitfully developing.

Council of Europe Entry Set for Early 1995

PM1305115494 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 May 94 p 3

[Article by RIA Novosti correspondent Vitaliy Dymarskiy: "Daniel Tarschys' Trump Card. Russia Could Join the Council of Europe in Early 1995"]

[Text] Strasbourg, Paris—The spring session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, which has ended in Strasbourg, turned out to be stormy and memorable. Perhaps for the first time, mention was made of a more or less concrete schedule for Russia's admission to this organization, as yet the only pan-European organization to unite countries from both the Eastern and Western parts of the continent. Although an exact entry date was not officially stated, in the corridors "reliable sources" were very specific: 30 January 1995. The Council of Europe leadership, and Vladimir Shumeyko, who was on an official visit to Strasbourg at the time, and the members of the permanent Russian parliamentary delegation were, as behoves them, more diplomatic, unanimously placing the final decision on Russia's admission in the first quarter of next year—are there not plenty of things that could happen?!

Nonetheless, even compared with the January session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, a change of position with regard to Russia was clearly perceptible. And this is not because of the replacement of the secretary general, a post for which elections were held at this session. France's Catherine Lalumiere, who has done much to boost the prestige of the Council of Europe, until recently a little-known organization, hoped to be elected for a second consecutive term and was, to this end, counting on the representatives of Eastern Europe, most of which she brought into the Council of Europe in her five-year term. Russia's admission was another trump card in Lalumiere's hands, but she was stabbed in the back—by her own French deputies, who were settling old scores of their own. It was by their two or three votes that the now former secretary general fell short.

The Swede Daniel Tarschys, who unexpectedly overtook Lalumiere, played the "Russian card" even more. Not only does he speak Russian, but his "track record" as a professor includes analytical works on the former USSR and Russia, on the downfall of totalitarianism, and on other related topics which he studied, in part, in Leningrad, where he did a six-month course in the eighties. For Tarschys, Russia's admission to the Council of Europe is topic number one, since this could be the first and biggest result of his term in the post of secretary general. In fact, he made no secret of this in an interview with your correspondent.

Of course, Tarschys expressed all the necessary reservations. True, the adoption of a new Constitution and free parliamentary elections—this is the first and most important condition of admission to the European family, and it has already been fulfilled. But the Council of Europe and its commissions and experts must in the coming months make a more scrupulous study of Russian laws, the effectiveness of the judiciary, and the situation regarding human rights and national minorities. Only after that will there be a final decision on Russia's compliance with European standards.

Are these standards uniform? Vladimir Lukin, head of our delegation, asked himself that question repeatedly during the session, and answered in the negative. In the opinion of the chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, Russia should, of course, join the Council of Europe, but it is unacceptable for special demands to be made on it which are by no means always observed by the existing members of the Council of Europe. This applies, in particular, to the position of national minorities (in the Baltic countries, for instance), the presence of troops on other states' territory, etc. Vladimir Lukin insisted on an even-handed approach, especially since the Council of Europe needs Russia as much as Russia needs the Council of Europe.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who is now a member of the official Russian delegation to the Council of Europe, sought to fan the flames in all the debates. Admittedly this, his first visit to Strasbourg, will apparently also be his last, if we are to believe the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] leader's statement prior to his departure. Taking the "national patriotic" line to absurd extremes, as always, Zhirinovskiy informed the public that Russia does not belong in the Council of Europe or the NATO Partnership for Peace, or even, moreover, in...the United Nations, which, he said, it should immediately quit. What upset the "liberal democrat" most of all, however, was the theft of his cap during an official reception with Daniel Tarschys (incidentally, the Swede is also a liberal democrat, but without the quotation marks). Stating that "the price of my headgear at auction will soon go up, of course," Zhirinovskiy then left Strasbourg, which he found inhospitable and where, among other things, he was involved in a clash with demonstrators who had gone to the Russian Consulate building to protest the LDP leader's presence in France. As for his headgear, our delegation was immediately reminded of the old joke: "The October Revolution is canceled—the leader's cap has been stolen!" According to that logic, fascism will not win the day in Russia....

So, forceful passions seethed at the session, but now, after the stormy debates, everything shoould fall into a calm, workaday routine. Calm is required on both sides—in the Council of Europe and in Russia. And then, probably, all the dates cited for Russia's entry will become real.

Reportage on Bosnia Talks in Geneva

Foreign Ministers Issue Communique

LD1305195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva May 13 TASS—Foreign ministers of Russia, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Greece and France, as well as the United States secretary of state coordinated their steps to achieve the soonest settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, says a communique adopted on results of their today's meeting.

The ministers called on the conflicting sides to conclude a comprehensive agreement on termination of hostilities and pull efforts for the achievement of political settlement without any preliminary conditions.

They offered the Bosnian sides to begin negotiations under the aegis of the contact group within two weeks. The group includes representatives of Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations.

In the opinion of the ministers, the agreement on termination of combat operations should entail separation of forces, withdrawal of heavy armaments and interposition of U.N. forces. The agreement should be concluded for four months with a possibility of its prolongation. The ministers think that the U.N. force in the conflict zone should be reinforced.

The fulfilment of the peace settlement agreement, including the troops pullback and separation, may result in a gradual lift of sanctions introduced by the United Nations.

Kozyrev Comments on Arrival

LD1305125994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva May 13 TASS—Foreign ministers from Russia, the United States and five European countries met on Friday in the U.S. mission to the UN European headquarters. Andrey Kozyrev, Warren Christopher and their counterparts from Greece, Belgium, Germany, France and Great Britain try to elaborate a common position towards Bosnian settlement and bring the conflicting parties back to the negotiating table.

According to Kozyrev, the discussion is unlike to be easy. Speaking to reporters upon his arrival in Geneva, the Russian foreign minister said that "although everybody understands the necessity of instant termination of combat actions, every party (at the negotiations) tries to insert additional demands into this definition".

Kozyrev estimated chances of compromise, at least over principal approaches towards the problem, as 50-50, but said that Boris Yeltsin's recent peace proposals "have a good chance to become a backbone of possible decisions".

Kozyrev Comments on Geneva Meeting

LD1505193494 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] Another step taken by Russian diplomacy was the meeting in Geneva two days ago between foreign ministers of Russia and a number of Western countries, who discussed the situation in Bosnia. Moscow still insists that the Bosnian conflict can only be settled through negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Begin Kozyrev recording] There were breaks during the meeting, at times some of those attending left the conference room to talk one-to-one. Fortunately, it did not spill out into any violence, but there were quite a few dramatic moments. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Until now, until yesterday, the U.S. side had not once associated itself with those figures, 49 and 51 percent. Why? Because Washington had always believed that the Muslim, or the Muslim-Croat, side has to be heard first, and that their proposals should form the basis for further work. In their latest proposals signed in Vienna, the Muslim-Croat side claimed as much as 58 percent of the territory. I can easily imagine, from my endless contacts with the sides, that both the Muslims can as yet claim up to 90 percent, and the Serbs, who also have some hotheads among them, can also claim up to 90 percent, leaving their neighbors with just a tiny stretch of land. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Welcomes Serb, Muslim Reaction

LD1405220794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2115 GMT 14 May 94

[By correspondents ITAR-TASS Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Excerpt] Geneva, 15 May—The first reaction from the Bosnian sides to the results of the ministerial meeting between Russia, the USA and five countries of the European Union indicates that it will be possible to move towards a settlement on the basis of the adopted document. This was announced to journalists in Geneva on Saturday night by Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Federation foreign minister.

"I must say that the reaction was not bad from both the Serb and the Muslim leadership," he noted. "We had contacts with Haris Silajdzic, Bosnian prime minister, during which it became clear that there is a considerable opportunity to work towards a settlement on the basis of the adopted document. I think that the Serbian side is also sending out signals that it is willing to begin negotiations without any preconditions, which is very important."

Nevertheless, the minister believes that considerable effort will be needed to bring the two sides closer. [passage omitted]

Comments on Stability of Agreement

LD1405184894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 14 May carries a 2 ½ minute video report by Dmitriy Voskoboynikov from Geneva on the 13 May meeting between Russian and Western foreign ministers to discuss a settlement for Bosnia. Voskoboynikov, in a brief interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, asks:

"Yesterday seven foreign ministers worked out a coordinated position. Is it not the case that in a few weeks time, should the situation deteriorate—around Brcko, for instance—this coordination will completely disappear?"

Kozyrev responds, "Unfortunately, we should be prepared to see our cooperation put to the test, but a fairly good basis has been laid down for progressing forward. This is not a complete answer to all the questions. These are only the basic elements for going on to work out a joint approach which needs to be worked on by the parties."

The report then continues with a round-up of the Geneva meeting.

Kozyrev Comments on Communique

LD1405153794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The communique on Bosnia signed on Friday by the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, Britain and France and the European Union, "makes unhappy those who would like to continue war there." The statement was made at the news conference in Geneva by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev following the talks there.

The summing-up document says that the settlement in Bosnia is possible only through talks. It fixes the idea for granting 51 pct of the territory to the Moslem-Croatian federation (49 pct to the Serbs) and says about the possible stage-by-stage lifting of sanctions against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia if the settlement in materialised.

The Russian diplomats with whom an Interfax correspondent talked to, stressed those provisions in the communique which, as they believe, largely are based on the message by the Russian leader Boris Yeltsin to the presidents of the United States and France, Bill Clinton and Francois Mitterrand, to British Prime Minister John Major and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Among them is the need to strictly observe all UN resolutions, including the maintenance of the embargo for arms deliveries to the Moslems; to deny claims by the Moslems and Croats for possessing 58 pct of the Bosnian territory and the idea that Bosnia-Herzegovina should consist of two equal parts. There is still another point which, according to the Russian diplomats, is a "clear hint" to the Moslems that the world community will not tolerate hostilities around the town of Brcko.

According to a senior Russian diplomats, if Bosnian Serbs agree to 49 pct of the territory and withdraw their troops, the prospect for the lifting of sanctions from the Union Republic of Yugoslavia will be realistic. Otherwise this will mean an isolation, he said.

As Kozyrev noted at the news conference in Geneva, "our task is not to ease life for one side, it is to advance every side to reasonable solutions".

Comments on Fulfillment of UN Decisions

LD1405140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 14 May—The document from the Geneva meeting, which took place on Friday [13 May] clearly shows the need to fulfill all the world community's decisions on Bosnia. This applies, among other things, to the embargo and the sanctions established by the United Nations, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists today, commenting on the recent decisions of the U.S. Senate and the Russian State Duma, envisaging the possibility of a unilateral revision of international obligations.

In the run-up to the Geneva meeting, we found ourselves on the threshold of a kind of war between parliaments. The U.S. Senate decision provides for the possibility of the embargo on arms deliveries to Bosnia being lifted unilaterally. In our Duma there are not a few supporters of a unilateral lifting of sanctions against Belgrade. It is true, the minister said, "Lukin's amendment" fleshed out the latest Duma decision, and it is "fairly balanced."

In the Yugoslav conflict, all sides are bearing their share of the responsibility, Kozyrev said. It is therefore not fortuitous that in the communique of the ministers' meeting on Bosnia, both hotbeds of the conflict—both Gorazde and Brcko are mentioned—even though we had to argue a bit in this connection.

The head of Russian diplomacy believes that unilateral revisions of the UN Security Council [UNSC] decisions would only result in the destruction of the system of international relations. In that case the fulfillment of international treaties would be out of the question, he said. That is why the paragraph that mentions strict observance of all UNSC resolutions has been included in the Geneva document.

Kozyrev, Christopher Begin Meeting in Geneva

LD1405085194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0746 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Geneva, 14 May—A meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has started at the Russian permanent mission at the United Nations' Geneva office. It was learned from Russian diplomatic circles that the sides will discuss a range of questions on bilateral relations and continue to exchange opinions on the settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav crisis was the main topic during the meeting between the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, and five of the European Union countries, which took place on Friday night [13 May]. The participants in the meeting have reached agreements on the first steps to be taken toward resolving the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Comment on Results of Meeting

LD1405130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1011 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 14 May—The proposals that Boris Yeltsin sent to the heads of state before the Geneva meeting of ministers on Bosnia were, in fact, laid down in the foundation of its final communique. Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said this to journalists after the meeting with his American counterpart, Warren Christopher. They managed to work out a single position since all the participants—the heads of the diplomatic departments of the Russian Federation, United States, and the five countries of the European Union—sensed an objective necessity to work out a joint position.

Replying to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Andrey Kozyrev said Russia would inform Belgrade about the ministers' meeting in Geneva. Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, will leave for the FRY's capital with this task on 15 May.

In its turn, the American side will also take steps to inform the participants in the Bosnian conflict about the results of the meeting. Warren Christopher told journalists that he would meet representatives of Croatia and the Bosnian Government. Russia, the United States, the European Community, and the United Nations "are acting as a united front for the first time", he said. This is "the most significant result of the Geneva meeting."

Comment on Bosnia Summit

LD1405132094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Texdt] Geneva, 14 May—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has stated that a top-level meeting to discuss the problem of Bosnia is possible. Such a summit meeting between Russia, the United States, the

European Union and the United Nations "might be desirable," if there is progress toward a settlement. He expressed this view to journalists today after his talks with Andrey Kozyrev.

Warren Christopher recalled that Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton will meet in Naples in July, when the leaders of the seven leading Western countries and Russia gather there. As for a summit meeting on Bosnia, a specific date for holding one was not discussed at the ministerial meeting in Geneva on 13 May. However, if the sides consider it necessary, it would be possible to arrange summit talks. The deciding factor in this will be the "degree of success" of joint moves toward a settlement.

Andrey Kozyrev stated in his conversation with press representatives that the U.S. secretary of state had "spoken perhaps for the first time in such a clear way of the need to prepare for a summit meeting on Bosnia." Only at this level, the Russian minister thinks, can the most complex problems relating to the Bosnia crisis be finally resolved. A meeting must certainly be well prepared.

Further Comment on Bosnia Talks

LD1305201394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1939 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 13 May—"Our task has been to encourage all the parties in the Bosnian conflict toward reasonable decisions," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said when speaking on the results of the meeting held here today by the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States and five member-countries of the European Union. Speaking at a news conference, he noted that "the process of working out political decisions has been started through joint efforts." Those attending the talks had striven "to encourage the sides in the search for peaceful decisions, to prevent military actions and to assist in a settlement."

The meeting adopted a joint communique which defines the priority moves. "The foundation has been laid for a new stage, when the main political forces of the world act on an agreed basis," the Russian minister said. He particularly noted the call on the conflicting parties to stop hostilities and to start talks in the next two weeks. The general position on the territorial issue is also of great importance whereby a Muslim-Croatian federation in Bosnia could have 51 percent of the territory and Bosnian Serbs 49 percent.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher explained at the news conference that it is essentially a question in this case of the parameters which were specified earlier which are now being proposed as "a basis for further progress."

According to French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe the participants of the present Geneva meeting are prepared, if need be, to meet again next week.

Duma Passes Bill To Lift FRY Sanctions

LD1305130894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikkov]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—The Russian State Duma adopted on Friday, on the first reading, a law which would end in Russia's unilateral lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia.

"In connection with the unilateral use of international sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Yugoslavia, the absence of a reliable international legal mechanism of controlling their implementation (the Duma ruled) to suspend the participation of the Russian Federation in carrying out international sanctions against the union republic of Yugoslavia", the key article of the law says.

The lower house of the Russian parliament recommended all government agencies and enterprises to fully restore economic, political, diplomatic and cultural relations with Serbia and Montenegro which were disrupted by the sanctions.

The law is yet to be discussed on the second reading, but the Duma had already recommended the president, the government and the Foreign Ministry to "immediately undertake energetic and persistent efforts in the UN framework aimed at lifting sanctions against the union republic of Yugoslavia up to a unilateral refusal to implement the sanctions".

Besides, Russian representative at the UN was instructed to raise the issue of imposing sanctions against those conflicting parties in former Yugoslavia who reject an immediate ceasefire and an unconditional beginning of talks.

"In case of unilateral lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries to Bosnia, Russia should resort to adequate actions up to raising the issue of a unilateral withdrawal from the regime of sanctions", according to the document.

The Duma believes there is currently a real possibility for ensuring peace in former Yugoslavia and called on all warring parties to "immediately cease all combat activities and begin talks on ensuring peace". The chamber said it is ready to promote dialogue between the parties.

The lower house also addressed parliamentarians of the world to refrain from decisions "capable of destabilising the situation in former Yugoslavia", and mostly from those which can result in shipments of weapons to a warring side.

It also proposed to the states bordering on former Yugoslavia to hold an international conference on overcoming the Balkan crisis with the UN and CSCE participation.

Duma Factions Make Statements

LD1305175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The factions of the Liberal-Democratic and Russian Unity and Accord parties in the State Duma came out with formal statements on the Yugoslav developments, Friday.

The Liberal Democrats said that, to the growing surprise and discontent of the fraternal Serb people, the Duma failed to take action on the Yugoslav developments. That damaged the Duma's international image.

The Liberal Democrats felt the Duma's strategy for the former Yugoslavia must be based on the message of the numerous addresses and statements made by their leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

They advised the Duma to replace discussions of the Yugoslav developments with resolute moves against barbaric anti-Yugoslav actions by the United States, Germany and other countries.

The Liberal Democrats suggested that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev address, without delay, the State Duma. Depending on what he had to say, the Duma would decide whether he could remain in office.

The faction of the Russian Unity and Accord party in the State Duma said, in turn, that mistakes by the Foreign Ministry tended to aggravate the Bosnian conflict. The Unity and Accord party felt Moscow had blundered by hurrying to recognize unitary Bosnia- Herzegovina, favoring the idea of one-sided anti-Yugoslav sanctions and giving the green light to NATO's plans to bomb Serb positions.

The parliamentary faction of the Unity and Accord party called for immediate action on President Yeltsin's initiative for an international conference on the Balkans.

It said Russia was to be the first to propose the lifting of the "meaningless and unfair anti-Yugoslav sanctions". And if the Croats and Moslems moved to torpedo peace negotiations, Russia must push for the introduction of sanctions against those two communities.

Duma Deputies Comment

LD1305171594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] Russia must unilaterally halt its participation in implementing the international sanctions imposed against the Republic of Yugoslavia. This is stated in a law that deputies passed in its first reading today.

In the opinion of one of those who drew up the draft law, Deputy Vladimir Isakov, this document is important from the internal political viewpoint, as well as from the international viewpoint.

[Begin Isakov recording] This is the first time that we have moved into the sphere of foreign policy, although, according to the Constitution, we do have this right, precisely in the form of adopting a law. This was a very difficult step for the Duma, too. It is possible that there will be reaction not only to the content of the law, but also to the Duma's display of independence on this question. You know that the president reacts very painfully to any display of independence by other state bodies. [end recording]

[Announcer] It must be said that the law has yet to undergo its second reading and also to receive approval from the Federation Council and the president. If this approval is not received, the State Duma can adopt the law by a constitutional majority, that is by two-thirds of the votes.

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the International Affairs Committee, told our radio station about the possible consequences if this law is approved.

[Begin Lukin recording] It is an extremely incompetent, declarative, and demagogic law. Moreover, it is also anti-Serbian. If this law is adopted it will mean the unilateral lifting of sanctions on our part. Naturally, no one will join in with us. On the other hand, it will also mean the automatic lifting of the embargo on the delivery of weapons to Bosnia. This will, naturally, mean massive economic, military, and all sorts of other aid—a sharp increase by the Western side. Well, if you compare our economic potential with the West's economic potential, then you will understand whom this law will benefit. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Official Opposes Lifting Sanctions

LD1305195594 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1909 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 13 (TANJUG)—Senior Russian Foreign Ministry representative on Friday assessed as a 'premature step' the decision of the state Duma, lower house of the Russian Parliament, to recommend the lifting of anti-Yugoslav sanctions.

He told TANJUG in Moscow that Duma's move was emotional, and as such was no different from Thursday's proposal of the U.S. Senate to exempt the Bosnian Moslems from the arms embargo for the territory of the Former Yugoslavia.

'Both Russian and U.S. parliamentarians were hasty,' the Russian diplomat said, adding that both Duma and the U.S. Senate should have waited for the outcome of the ministerial meeting on Bosnia- Herzegovina currently underway in Geneva which gathers representatives of Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations.

The diplomat said that both Russia and the United States were civilized countries and that they should act accordingly, that is to consider international law above the national. This practically means that the sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro) and the arms embargo including the Moslems should remain in force until the U.N. Security Council decides differently.

The ministry representative said that Moscow's stand towards the sanctions against Yugoslavia remains unchanged. The sanctions should be lifted totally, depending on the peace settlement in Bosnia, he said.

The U.N. Security Council in late May 1992 introduced comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against Yugoslavia due to its alleged involvement in the war in Bosnia among the local Serbs, Moslems and Croats.

The Duma on Thursday passed a bill to unilaterally lift the sanctions against Yugoslavia, and the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution which recommends the exemption of Moslems from the arms embargo for the former Yugoslavia, which has been in force since spring 1991.

In order to become valid, both documents need to pass two more steps, including obtaining the signatures of presidents of Russia and the United States.

Croatian Embassy Official on Moves To Lift Sanctions

LD1305211994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The reactions of other units located on the territory of the former Yugoslavia have been negative in contrast to that of Belgrade. Davorin (Zaberscak), counsellor at the Croatian embassy in Moscow, commented on the new situation for our radio station.

[Begin (Zaberscak) recording] The sanctions were adopted at the United Nations and Russia's representative spoke in favor of sanctions. Any country's parliament might make a decision on discontinuing support for the decision, but this decision was made at the international level. Sanctions can only be lifted at the level at which they were adopted. We believe that until Serbia and Montenegro recognize the borders of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as they were before the war, borders which the international community and this country recognized, it will be difficult to talk about lifting sanctions.

Lawyer: Lifting FRY Sanctions Violates UN Charter

LD1305192294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Could Russia unilaterally suspend sanctions against Serbia? Here is Yevgeniy Prokhorov, director of the International Law Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry to speak on this from the point of view of international law.

[Prokhorov] It would be quite a difficult thing to do for one simple reason: We would have to leave the United Nations. The decision of the Security Council is of a compulsory nature and applies to all states of the world, even should they disagree with one or another decision. Therefore it would be impossible to unilaterally stop implementing sanctions adopted at the decision of the Security Council without violating the UN Charter.

U.S. Senate Stance on Lifting Bosnia Embargo Viewed

LD1305142494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Moscow is not inclined to dramatize the situation stemming from the American Senate's decision to recommend that the Clinton Administration should unilaterally lift the international embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims imposed in 1991. "This decision is unlikely to be carried out," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told INTERFAX on Friday.

According to him, "prior to becoming a law, the Senate's decision must be supported by the House of Representatives." "And this is very problematic. But even if this happens, the U.S. President might use his right to veto," the diplomat said.

American legislators, he noted, had already decided to lift the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims previously. "As at that time, this may be a political declaration, rather than instructions for action. Under American legislation the international law has priority over national, and therefore the U.N. embargo on arms supplies to the Muslims will remain in force till the U.N. Security Council makes its own decision," he said.

Nevertheless, the diplomat conceded that the U.S. Senate's decision is not the "best gift" for the conference of the heads of Russian, American, British, French, Belgian, German and Greek diplomacies on a settlement in Bosnia which opens in Geneva on Friday. "The U.S. secretary of state will have to reckon with the senators' decision in one way or another. The only question is to what extent," he added.

According to INTERFAX's interviewee, "the political declaration of the U.S. Senate might give rise to some response in Russia's State Duma." "As regards emotions our legislators are not second to the American. They can be expected to decide to lift the sanctions imposed against Yugoslavia in the near future. If this happens, the State Duma decision will have the same fate as that of the U.S. Senate," the diplomat concluded.

Kozyrev Discusses Middle East With Egyptian Counterpart

LD1405223194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2137 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 15 May—"As a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process, Russia favors further progress towards settlement," Andrey Kozyrev said in Geneva on Saturday evening, while receiving his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr [Muhammad] Musa, at the Russian Federation permanent mission at the UN European branch.

"Many factors are prompting us to pool our efforts," the Russian foreign minister stressed. "Many difficulties will have to be overcome in order to implement the Cairo agreement between the Palestinians and Israel. We also have to move forward in the matter of Israeli-Syrian relations."

He went on to say that Cairo was "playing a key role in the Middle East process and in resolving other international problems." We appreciate the contribution to the Bosnian settlement made by such member states of the Islamic Conference Organization as Egypt, which has adopted a balanced and even-handed approach on this and other issues.

As to bilateral relations, Moscow is "getting ready for President Mubarak's visit, which will be a very important event." The Egyptian leader is held "in the highest esteem in Russia." Boris Yeltsin and Husni Mubarak keep in contact and exchange messages. "We are moving consistently towards a Russo-Egyptian summit," stressed Andrey Kozyrev.

"Russia plays an important role in the Middle east settlement and has the trust of many sides," noted 'Amr Muhammad Musa. According to him, Cairo is ready to continue helping to set up various meetings that can advance peace.

The Egyptian minister stressed the "Bosnian issue occupies an important place on our agenda." This subject was discussed at his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Saturday.

DPRK Welcomes Call for Nuclear Security Conference

LD1305224094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[Text] Moscow 13 May—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] is for a political settlement to the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, a settlement based on the agreements reached with the USA, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today after the consultations between the deputy foreign ministers of Russia and the DPRK, which took place 12-13 May. Representing the DPRK was Deputy Foreign Minster Yi In-Kui. For the first time, Aleksandr Panov said, North Korea has stated quite firmly that it welcomes Russia's initiative on holding an international conference on security in, and a non- nuclear status for the Korean peninsula. Pyongyang is interested in the Russian initiative and is studying it.

The issue of the DPRK's special status in the Treaty on Non- Proliferation of nuclear weapons could give rise, and is giving rise, to some concern, since this path could in the end damage the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons regime. The Russian side took account of this during the political consultations, Russia's deputy foreign minister said.

North Korea said it did not want to drag out its term under this status, but wanted to settle the problem.

Moscow expressed its concern at the situation that has developed with the armistice—in existence since 1953—now that the DPRK has decided to give up this whole system and start direct talks with the USA.

Pyongyang explained the situation by saying this system is not operating anyway and is even being used to hide a build-up of American military presence in South Korea.

Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Talks

LD1305220494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 13 May 94

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Geronin]

[Text] Moscow, 13 May—Russia and the DPRK favor boosting bilateral links, including political contacts, Aleksandr Panov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, told ITAR-TASS today, after the end of political consultations at the level of deputy heads of foreign departments of Russia and the DPRK. The North Korean side advocated, inter alia, Russia's participation in the Rajin-Sonbong free economic zone, as well as cooperation in Siberia and in the Russian Far East. Both sides stated both countries' economic potential should be put to better use.

Moscow and Pyongyang said a new agreement on the participation of the North Korean side in logging in the Russian east should be signed as soon as possible. North Korean workers staying on the Russian territory should abide by the Russian law. Both sides acknowledge the need for creating better living conditions for them, said the Russian deputy foreign minister.

The consultations between Aleksandr Panov and his North Korean counterpart Yi In-Kui took place in Moscow on Thursday and Friday.

Argentine Foreign Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD1605081794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0711 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 16 May—Guido Di Tella, minister of foreign relations and worship [title as receieved] of Argentina, arrived in Moscow today from St. Petersburg.

Today, he is to have talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. It is expected that the meeting will result in the ratification of an agreement on the fundamentals of bilateral relations and that an agreement on the reciprocal abolition of the visa practice of both countries will be signed.

A group of Argentinian businessmen are accompanying the minister on his trip around Russia.

Begins Talks With Kozyrev

LD1605101594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 16 May (ITAR-TASS)—Talks began at noon today in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs between the foreign ministers of Russia and Argentina, Andrey Kozyrev and Guido Di Tella, who is here on an official visit. [passage omitted]

Welcoming the Argentinian guest, A. Kozyrev stressed that the visit is a most important element in the development of bilateral cooperation. He also noted that relations between Russia and Argentina have entered a new stage now—the stage of close cooperation. Our relations, the Russian minister pointed out, are an example of cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and other international forums.

According to A. Kozyrev, relations with Argentina are an important element of the development of the new Russia's multilateral ties with the whole of Latin America, taking account of the weight and influence which this country has in the region.

Talks End, Documents Signed

LD1605104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1018 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 16 May (ITAR-TASS)—Talks between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Argentinian counterpart Guido Di Tella, who is in Russia on an official visit, took place today at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

At the end of the talks, the sides initialled an agreement on the fundamentals of bilateral relations and signed an agreement on simplifying the visa regulations of the two countries.

Yeltsin Holds News Conference Before Leaving Germany

LD1305162794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Luedwigsburg May 13 TASS—"We have managed to reach an agreement on all economic issues," said Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a final news conference.

"During a meeting with leading representatives of the German economy we discussed concrete principles of relations between Russia and Germany in this field and major joint strategic projects. Isn't Germany interested in the construction of an automobile highway Moscow-Berlin, to be paid for? Or isn't the construction of a new high-speed railway Moscow Berlin interesting?" Yeltsin said.

"Taking into account that today's meeting was attended by prominent representatives of all branches of the German economy, we outlined immediate tasks not only for today or tomorrow, but for a period after the year 2000. The people of Russia and Germany will be the first to benefit from it," Yeltsin said.

Commenting on political results of the visit, Yeltsin pointed out that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany on August 31 will herald a new era in Russo-German relations—the era of reconciliation. "Festivities on the occasion of the troops withdrawal will take place in Berlin, which will set the minds of our society at rest. Several months later in Weimar, we shall arrange a joint cultural festival, inviting best Russian composers, writers, poets and ensembles. Let us make it a great cultural holiday," Yeltsin said.

He expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome given to him by the government of Baden-Wurttemberg, its Prime Minister Erwin Teufel whom Yeltsin had invited to visit Russia.

"I am leaving Germany with good and friendly feelings. We are crossing out the word "war" from our relations and from German and Russian dictionaries," the Russian president said in conclusion.

Report on Final Day of Yeltsin's Germany Visit

LD1305165194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At this moment President Boris Yeltsin of Russia is due to fly back to Moscow from Stuttgart. His official visit to Germany has ended. Our correspondents report on the last day of the trip:

[Begin recording] [Kondratyev] The German mass media are today using more complimentary than critical language about the results of the Russian president's talks in Bonn and the chancellor's home region. The last day of the visit, just as the previous day, began with political discussions. Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister and chairman of the FDP [Free Democratic Party], part of the ruling coalition, arrived for a joint luncheon with Yeltsin at Petersberg, where the guest is staying. It is Kinkel's Foreign Ministry that will have to implement the chancellor's promises to Yeltsin, on Russian membership of GATT and a number of European Union organizations, full membership of G-7, and signing of a separate protocol on Russia's special status in NATO's Partnership for Peace. Russia, for its part, supports the FRG's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Kinkel told us after the talks that the two sides also discussed the role Russia and Germany could play in a Bosnian peace settlement. Kinkel, who is taking part in the work of the joint commission on return of art treasures, was not very happy about Russia's inflexibility over the return of works of art captured during World War II. Fearing charges of unpatriotic behavior, our country is not even prepared at the moment to honor its promise to hand over the Gotha Library, which is chiefly of significance to Germans.

[Kondratyev, addressing Yeltsin] Boris Nikolayevich, how do you evaluate the results of your talks with the German leaders?

[Yeltsin] All the issues that we had planned to discuss were discussed. We have not lost out on a single question.

[Kondratyev] From Bonn Yeltsin flew to Stuttgart, which he first visited in 1991. No doubt the warm reception that he received then made such an impact on the president that he decided to visit his friends in Baden-Wuerttemberg again. From Stuttgart, Boris Yeltsin will return to Moscow. He has reason to be satisfied with his meetings on German soil. Germany, as was repeatedly stressed during the visit, is Russia's main partner on the European continent. [end recording]

Experts on Unregistered Japanese Plutonium

LD1305160394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—Japan imposes nuclear game rules on the world while accusing Russia of developing new weapon types, concluded Russian experts when 70 kilos of unregistered plutonium were founded in reactors of a Japanese splitting fuel plant at the Tokai-Mura Nuclear Center.

Seventy kilos are enough to make eight nuclear warheads. Specialists put into question Japanese claims that the pure plutonium powder "stuck" to the equipment and pipes.

While storing unregistered raw materials for nuclear bombs Japan continues to spread sensational rumors on Russian development of a new small-size neutron bomb on the basis of red mercury. It gives the new bomb's parameters—a size of a coffee cup, and address and possibilities of its use—Bosnia, a terror weapon.

In the opinion of experts, this is done to conceal Japanese secret nuclear activities. According to IAEA norms, eight kilos of plutonium are enough to make a bomb and dangerous for non- proliferation of nuclear arms.

The revealed materials make one doubt "full transparency of the plutonium peace use programs" against the background of Japanese claims it is a model state in the sphere of nuclear control, said the experts.

This opinion is confirmed by a classified report of the U.S. Institute for Control over Nuclear Materials submitted to the U.S. secretary of state. Some paragraphs of the report have leaked and were used by the press.

Deputy head of the Russian Ministry for Nuclear Power Engineering's Information and Public Relations Department Vitaliy Nasonov told ITAR-TASS the report on Japanese plutonium requires more studies, as it is hard to reveal the plutonium source.

Crimea Trade, Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD1305170194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—The Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation in the building of the Russian Government on Friday.

The agreement was signed following talks between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Crimean Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov. This is a framework agreement laying a foundation to the restoration of close trade and economic cooperation between

Russian and Crimean enterprises and partners. The agreement was sighed by the Vice-Premier of the Russian Government Sergey Shakhray and his Crimean counterpart, Yevgeniy Saburov.

"We are considerably falling behind Ukraine which has already established trade and economic cooperation with a number of subjects of the Russian Federation and signed the necessary documents," Shakhray told journalists upon completion of the signing ceremony. The agreement, drawn in strict conformity with Ukrainian laws, will make it clear both to residents of Russia and Ukraine that their governments have embarked upon the course of close cooperation, shakhray said.

For his part, Saburov said that the signed document lifts the problem of mutual payments and many other unjustified barriers which existed for Russian and Crimean trade and economic partners and those wishing to have a rest in the former Soviet resort region.

As for holiday makers, the Crimean Government reached an oral agreement with Kiev on considerably facilitating a customs inspection procedure for those arriving in the Crimea. The Crimean vice-premier pointed out that it is too early yet to speak about the Crimea joining the rouble zone. However, he invited all those wishing to have a rest in the Crimea to visit Crimean resorts, adding that they will feel comfortable there with "Russian roubles."

Chile Considers Purchase of Russian War Planes

MK1305112094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 3

[Gennadiy Sperskiy report: "Chile's Army Equipped With Russian Planes?"]

[Text] Chilean Air Force Brigadier General Gonzalo Miranda, commander of the Santiago air force district, was in Russia for a working visit. He was received by Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Air Force. The Chilean guest visited the Gagarin cosmonaut training center located in Zvezdnyy Gorodok. There he looked at the simulators used by cosmonauts preparing for their flight, and had a discussion with Lieutenant General Petr Klimuk, chief of the center.

Gen. Gonzalo Miranda confirmed that the possibility of purchasing Russian-made war planes, which are to replace the obsolete British planes, is currently being studied. But the final solution of the question and setting aside of the required funds for purchasing is up to the Chilean Government. Gen. Gonzalo Miranda was rather optimistic about prospects for Chile-Russia cooperation in the sphere of outer space. He pointed out that in our day and age there are actual possibilities for developing joint projects and their implementation in the interests of both countries.

Contract for Sale of Migs to Malaysia Ready

PM1305122594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 First Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "MiGs Contract Ready But It Will Not Be Signed Tomorrow"]

[Text] In yesterday's issue of IZVESTIYA our Washington correspondent, citing a statement by Arkadiy VOlskiy, reported that Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Government, had not arrived in the U.S. capital as planned to open an exhibition of progressive technology because he had flown to Malaysia to sign a contract for MiG-29 fighters.

According to information I received from confidential sources, the vice premier is still in Moscow. The Russian-Malaysian contract for the sale of 18 light Mig-29 front-line fighter is indeed already ready and has been agreed by the participants in talks but it is to be signed in the near future, in the summer. A few details have to be sorted out.

These details concern in particular the palm oil consignment which will go to pay for our aircraft. As we know, when he was vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy visited Malaysia and suggested selling our MiGs in practice mainly for palm oil. But the Russian Government rejected such terms for a contract and insisted on the currency equivalent. Now there is a decision. It remains to be approved.

It is true that at the Malaysian side's request our aircraft builders embarked on unprecedented innovations in equipping the Russian fighter. Thus, the aircraft delivered to Kuala Lumpur will have installed on them "Takan" close-range navigation receivers which operate in tandem with the U.S. ground station produced by the same firm. The MiGs are being further equipped with "Collins" radio stations operating on the emergency frequencies used in Southeast Asia. The fighter will acquire the GPS-21 satellite navigation system which can get their bearings equally well from Russian and U.S. satellite signals.

At the Malaysians' request all instruments on our aircraft will be recalibrated from meters and kilometers to feet and miles, which are used in that country. The Malaysian military pilots will train at our air force bases and in flying academies. And most important Russia for the first time together with Malaysia is creating a fundamentally new subunit there to service aircraft—the technical service center, which will be able to help not only Malaysian military aircraft but also the fighter aircraft of other states.

In the opinion of the exporters of our aviation equipment all this additional equipping of Russian fighter aircraft will help them integrate more easily with the ground-based airfield services of the Malaysian Air Force and will ensure their easier introduction into existing infrastructures and will consequently make the purchase of such aircraft cheaper and more accessible.

Our MiGs have been the basic aircraft in this region only in India and Vietnam so far. Now, after the signing of the contract with Malaysia, it is not ruled out that the Russian combat aircraft will appear in other Southeast Asian countries.

This breakthrough to new arms markets previously closed to Russia is regarded by specialists as a very great gain for Russian exporters of combat equipment.

Chisinau Seen Reluctant To Urge 14th Army Withdrawal

MK1305121094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 4

[Yuriy Selivanov report under the "Dniester Region" rubric: "Into Whose Hands Does the Withdrawal of the 14th Army Play? Attitude to Russian Troops in Moldova May Change in the Most Unpredictable Way"]

[Text] During festivities held in Tiraspol on the occasion of Victory Day, the Dniester Region leaders pointedly distanced themselves from the command of the 14th Army. Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester Region Moldovan Republic, departed from the city's central square after laying flowers and making a brief address to the veterans, leaving it to General Aleksandr Lebed and his subordinates to take charge of the conduct of the celebration—something the Russian soldiers did a good job of.

This public demonstration of hostility has effectively been precipitated by the general context of relations between the Dniester Region leaders and the 14th Army command, which have recently been described as woefully bad. Judging by some indicators, the Dniester Region leaders, having soberly weighed all the "pros" and "cons" regarding the presence of the Russian troops in the region, are inclined to think that their withdrawal will only be welcome. After recent political breakthroughs toward the final settlement of the Dniester Region crisis, the Tiraspol authorities, who formerly prayed for the 14th Army as their sole guardian, are no longer attaching crucial importance to this function of the Russian troops. Moreover, the republic itself presently has its own armed forces that are fully capable of dealing with the potential adversary—the Moldovan Army. The decrease in the 14th Army's strategic importance in the view of Dniester Region leaders has brought its political role in the region to the foreground. This role, given the well-known stance of Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, who, as people here believe, has powerful circles in Moscow behind him, does not suit Tiraspol at all. The line pursued by the 14th Army commander during the past 18 months has been aimed at replacing the current ruling elite of the Dniester Region Moldovan Republic with more liberal leaders capable of striking a compromise with Moldova. The peculiarity of the political situation in the Dniester Region is that the 14th Army command is the sole serious opposition to the Tiraspol regime. Its political satellites from among local opposition figures wield little clout and do not pose any independent threat to the authorities. This is why the removal of Gen. Lebed from the Dniester Region is seen by some Tiraspol politicians as a fairly acceptable option. Moreover, the issue is precisely the withdrawal of the army, not just the replacement of its commander, because in the latter case Aleksandr Lebed will be replaced by another general with similar instructions. Suggestions that the 14th Army commander's 18-month revolt might be an independent action have long lost credibility with anyone here.

What is interesting in this situation is Chisinau's stance. They are fully aware there that as of today Gen. Lebed is the sole force that can weaken the current orthodox Tiraspol authorities, if not topple them altogether. Upon the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester Region, the chances of the local opposition will be brought to nil, and the positions of Igor Smirnov and Co. will receive a significant boost. The latter is unlikely to please the Moldovan leaders, particularly on the eve of an extremely difficult and prolonged stage of detailed negotiations on the final settlement of the Dniester Region problem. Therefore, the current political alignment suggests that they in Chisinau are objectively interested in having the 14th Army stay on. That this is not idle talk was proved by the fact that in the recent Moldovan-Dniester Region-Russian talks the question of withdrawing the 14th Army was not even raised.

Political & Social Issues

'Shakhray Dismissed To Normalize Russo-Chechen Ties'

LD1605091694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 16 May 94

["Shakhray Dismissed To Normalize Russo-Chechen Ties"—ITAR-TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS—Sergey Shakhray has "yielded" his office of minister for nationalities and regional policies to head of the Krasnodar territory administration, economist Nikolay Yegorov, 42.

Shakhray indirectly confirmed the information on May 13, when he signed a Russo-Crimean treaty in his capacity of a Russian vice- premier and then explained that it was his sole post now.

According to a well-informed source inside the Russian Government, who shared the above information with ITAR-TASS, "the presidential decree on appointing the new nationalities minister was not signed as yet, therefore, press reports on forthcoming cabinet reshuffle were a leak of reliable information."

As a vice-premier, Shakhray will continue to supervise various issues of nationalities and regional policies.

His dismissal may be associated with a stand taken by the Chechen leaders, who did not want Shakhray to represent Russia at bilateral talks.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev of Chechnya possibly bears a grudge against Shakhray because the latter repeatedly emphasized that Russo-Chechen talks could begin on the condition that pre-term elections be held in Chechnya first.

Hopefully, the new nationalities minister Yegorov will manage to find a more flexible approach to reaching a bilateral agreement with Chechnya.

Shakhray Says He Saw No Decree on Dismissal

LD1405141694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Raul Tukhvatullin]

[Text] Ufa May 14 TASS—"I have not seen a presidential decree on my dismissal, so I cannot comment on reports about my dismissal," Russian Vice-prime Minister Sergey Shakhray said.

The announcement followed mass media reports about Shakhray's dismissal from the post of nationalities minister. In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday, Shakhray said that even if these reports turn out to be true, he will continue as vice-prime minister.

Shakhray is in Ufa to attend a conference of the regional section of his party of Russian Unity and Accord.

Shakhray met with Bashkir President Murtaza Rakhimov today to discuss economic problems and ways to resolve the economic crisis in Bashkiria, a Russian republic in the Volga region.

Chechen Leader Insists on Meeting Yeltsin 'Face-to-Face'

LD1405163794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] On Saturday the Office of Chechen President Djokhar Dudayev supplied Interfax with a statement on relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen republic. Groznyy sees consultations with the Chechen opposition, underway in Moscow, as a sign that Moscow has no intention of settling problems in bilateral relations by civilized and peaceful means.

The statement says Moscow's dialog with what is known as Chechnya's Provisional Council proves that Moscow "is trying to destabilize the situation in the Caucasus and the Chechen republic with a view to occupy Chechnya".

As a result, it is practically impossible for Groznyy to hold negotiations with Moscow.

The Chechen leaders repeat that a solution to the problem of bilateral relations can be found only by Presidents Dudayev and Yeltsin, in a face-to-face rendezvous.

Only a meeting between the two presidents can return to the norm relations between the Chechen republic and the Russian Federation, says Groznyy. All contacts with the so-called public and political forces, as represented by the Provisional Council, "will yield no result other than aggravation of bilateral relations".

Dudayev's Office rejected reports on plans to send an official delegation to Moscow.

Yeltsin Appoints Cossack as Nationalities Minister

LD1605091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 16 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has named a new minister of nationalities and regional policy after dismissing Sergey Shakhray, the presidential press service reported today.

The new minister, Nikolay Yegorov, is an ethnic Cossack, who had made a lightning career, moving from a collective farm chairman to the leader of Russia's largest territory to the ministerial office.

Economist Nikolay Yegorov is 42-years-old and his last post was the leader of Kuban, Russia's southern frontier region. He is reputed to be a rational politician, capable of keeping stable the situation in a multinational border territory. He enjoys considerable authority not only in that territory but also among the leaders of Russia's north Caucasian republics.

Yegorov favours a tougher executive discipline as people are tired from disorder and irresponsibility and want authorities to be authoritative and not sideline dispassionate observers.

President Boris Yeltsin began his brief vacation in the south last March with a five-hour conversation with Yegorov, who was the head of administration of the Krasnodar territory. Their discussion of Kuban's problems as Russia's southern frontier territory, including migration of people from the flashpoints of ethnic tension in the Commonwealth must have impressed the president. Their discussion of migration and inter-ethnic relations continued later and may have prompted the present appointment.

Yeltsin Notes Social Priorities in Family Day Message

LD1405054394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 14—The Russian family, its needs and interests are priorities in the social and economic policy of the Russian state, according to President Boris Yeltsin. He stated this in a message to the nation on the occasion Of International Family day which is marked on Sunday.

The president called on all bodies of state authority, public movements and religious confessions of the country to protect the family from armed conflicts, ecological and technological disasters.

"The family is the mainstay of public stability, peace and progress. In it future citizens of the state are born and brought up," the message says.

Gorbachev Indicates Possible Run for Presidency

LD1405204594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2023 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Polunin]

[Text] Rome, 15 May—Speaking to Italian journalists, former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev did not rule out the possibility that he would put himself in the running at the presidential elections in Russia. M. Gorbachev is in Venice, where he was invited to attend a seminar on security policy problems organized by UNESCO and the European Institute for Cooperation between East and West.

Asked by journalists to comment on the international community initiative on the Yugoslav crisis, M. Gorbachev opined that the recognition by the West of the sovereignty of former Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia was too hasty. As for the possibility of the use of force by Western powers to settle the conflict in former Yugoslavia, in his view the threats that force would be used testify to the weakness of international diplomacy.

Having stressed in his conversation with journalists that the communist model has become obsolete, M. Gorbachev noted that the liberal model, currently widespread in Europe, was also in crisis.

That is why new ideas and new parties are needed, he stressed.

Filatov Says Deputy Premiers Should Not Be Ministers

LD1405154794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The head of the administration of the Russian president Sergey Filatov has not seen yet the presidential decree relieving Deputy Prime-Minister Sergey Shakhray of the duties of the minister for nationalities and regional policy. In an interview with Interfax he said he was told that such a document exists.

"I know nothing about the reasons for the decision, if it was made," Filatov said. According to his personal viewpoint, the prevailing tendency now is not to let deputy prime-ministers have ministerial portfolios. The sphere which Shakhray is in charge is an especially striking example of the usefulness of this tendency, Filatov said.

Social Explosion by Fall Predicted

PM1305132194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[Ivan Boltovskiy article under the "After a Sensation" rubric: "Bomb Under the Constitution"]

[Text] It is now obvious that the protracted spin in which the country's economy finds itself has been caused not by the "democrats'" desire to improve it but by a rapacious struggle for the redistribution of property. In this the authorities have gone so far that they have set against themselves even some of their former patrons.

Almost six months after the referendum and the elections pro-U.S.-oriented foreign news sources suddenly reported that their results had been falsified: There was a voter turnout of less than 50 percent, which means the Constitution was not adopted.

The international observers who concealed the truth assume the expression of naive simpletons, pleading concern for Russia. Several months ago this concern made them lie, but now it makes them tell the truth. Love really is unpredictable.

So, the powers that be and the Constitution carved out by them have received from the West a crushing blow instead of credits, about which no one has breathed a word recently. And for the president—a bomb under the czar's throne? Russia's rulers might end up on a par with their colleagues in Haiti.

The blow was not unexpected. Let us recall the scandal over the Russian spies, the Ames, which was blown up out of all proportion. Having kept them in cotton wool for about two years, for some reason they exposed them at just the time when B. Yeltsin was in the greatest need of foreign support.

There is more. When the Russian Government tried to pick up brownie points with its diplomatic activity in Yugoslavia, the United States ignored those peacemaking efforts and shot down Serb aircraft. There then followed the militarily pointless bombing of Serb territory. In response to Russia's attempts to show itself a great power, the United States roughly put it in its place, making it clear that Russia was no more than a provincial actress in a U.S. show. The presidential team, above all, was slighted.

Why has "friend Bill" swapped favor for anger? Or has he forgotten about the trillions of dollars spent on the struggle against communism, and is he now indifferent to what will happen to Russia? The stubborn show of U.S. hostility toward Russia can only be explained by a firm resolve to change its ruling clique. By what motives might the United States be guided?

The situation in the country is steadily deteriorating and will evidently be critical by the fall. The stoppage of enterprises and mass unemployment on the one hand. Harvest failure for well known reasons, a sharp fall in the livestock population, and the threat of famine on the other hand. Thus, a tight knot of very acute problems will have been tied in a number of regions by the fall: unemployment, a food shortage, and high prices. A social explosion is really in the cards.

Those who look at Russia with sober eyes understand that indignation will turn against capitalizers. Last year's elections convinced them of this. The people will sweep capitalism away, and some strong individual might accede to power on a broad wave of protest. The West does not doubt that such people still exist on Russian soil.

It is frequently possible to hear the surprised comment: "The people are being robbed, but they stay silent. They have simply been zombified!" This is nonsense, of course. Over the years of Soviet power a distinct type of social consciousness took shape in our country: The cells of society—labor collectives—were geared to the leaders and lived according to the rules of large families. Workers are not making a resolute protest not because they have been stupefied by somebody but because they cannot yet overcome a psychological barrier—the president's authority.

The masses do not see a sufficiently strong figure in the opposition. When one appears, the people will wake up at once. They have already voiced their protest by casting their votes for Zhirinovskiy, although the majority take a highly ambiguous attitude toward him, to put it mildly. Therefore the peacemakers have good reason to make haste with the presidential election, without waiting for the masses themselves to nominate their leader.

The chief consequence of the election will not be a new president but a coalition government, whose creation is insisted on by practically the entire opposition. Being the Duma in miniature and being politically ill-assorted, it will not change the policy of capitalization. On the other hand, it will dissipate the working people's future discontent and carry it away.

Under these conditions the left-wing opposition must formulate more exactly its demand for a government of public confidence. In our view, the question should be raised of creating a socialist government which advocates the power of labor collectives based on the supremacy of ownership by the whole people and Soviet self-management.

It is highly doubtful that the trip to Germany will strengthen the president's position. It seems that there is still no getting away from an early election.

But a coalition government...is already being created, as evidenced by the appointment of N. Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, as a minister. The fact that he will be without a portfolio is also symbolic.

Yerin Calls for 'United Front' Against Crime

PM1305151194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 94 First Edition pp 1,2

[Interview with Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin by Vladimir Klimov: "Providing a Contract Killing Service"]

[Text] [Klimov] First of all Viktor Fedorovich, I want to hear your assessment of the crime situation. What are its particular features at the moment?

[Yerin] Recently ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA published an Internal Affairs Ministry report to the citizens of Russia. It described in some detail both the main, very complex trends in the development of crime and the measures that the internal affairs organs are adopting to counter it.

We ourselves are seeking to convey to citizens our worries about the way some socioeconomic processes are going. Why? Well, because they are leading to the appearance of dangerous new criminal phenomena. For example, the illegal trade in firearms. When they fall into the hands of criminals, they become a threat to the lives of thousands of citizens. The credit and banking sphere is being criminalized and thefts of many billions of rubles have been identified. The same is happening in export-import deals. Every day we stop attempts to export raw materials and supplies that constitute Russian national assets. Serious problems are also arising in the privatization process and the development of the gambling business.... The list goes on.

Unfortunately the social danger of crimes of this kind is not always correctly reflected in the media. They are presented merely as another sensation. But the most important things—the causes and conditions of crimes that jeopardize our state's national security and the results of the hard work to detect them—escape public attention.

[Klimov] Contract killings have become more frequent of late. What are the statistics, and what do the figures tell us?

[Yerin] Before the mid-eighties we did not really encounter this phenomenon (aside from individual instances of the contract killing of a wife ordered by a husband or vice versa). It became a reality, in the first place, with the emergence of clients capable of paying considerable sums for the implementation of the criminal plan, and, second, the appearance of people (often with the essential combat experience) mentally prepared to carry out any contract, however dirty, for money.

An analysis shows that murders by hired killers have become more frequent in the past two years. In 1992 around 100 were recorded; in 1993 there were 2.5 times more. As a rule, each of them captures public attention because the victims are people who are pretty well known in their own milieu.

Increasingly we are encountering cases where violence is used as a means of pressuring representatives of the authorities, or as a means of intimidating or removing business rivals.

Militia officers prevent a large number of these crimes at the planning or preparation stage. Nonetheless, bloody clashes between criminal formations, attacks on competitors, and the killing of people working in commerical structures are almost daily events.

Militia officers are hard at work all the time, often risking their lives. I sincerely regret that the results of their dangerous work are of little interest to journalists. It occurs to me that it might be to someone's advantage to give the public the impression that the militia is not detecting this kind of crime, that it is not doing its duty. Far from it. In St. Petersburg, in February, militia officers arrested two hired killers from Tajikistan. They had been hired by an entrepreneur who was being plagued by racketeers in order to deal with his tormentors. The killers shot seven people, using submachine-guns. The murderers were arrested, but the entrepreneur who ordered the punishment was a criminal too.

Some days ago officers from Moscow Main Internal Affairs Administration organized crime and criminal investigation components arrested six members of an established criminal gang who were providing a contract killing service. They would go all over Russia to commit the crimes. Believe me, it is very difficult tracking down and neutralizing gangs like these. But criminal militia officers have now accumulated considerable experience, mastered new methods, and are achieving decent results. Sure, unfortunately we are not yet managing to solve every murder. But we are trying to do so.

[Klimov] What specific cases of contract killings can you tell us about?

[Yerin] First of all I want to say that in the process of detecting and investigating a crime such as a contract killing militia officers and Prosecutor's Office staff usually encounter a very experienced, brutal, and shrewd opponent, who takes care to cover his tracks. So we cannot expect this kind of crime to be cleared up quickly—in, say, a few hours. It is a long and painstaking job. For instance, the Udmurt Republic Internal Affairs Ministry organized crime administration found that a certain B. had been involved in more than 30 contract killings. He was referred to the criminal investigation department. But the numerous clients heard about it and, fearing exposure, dealt with him themselves. He was found in the woods with a bullet in the back of his head, together with the pistol that shot him.

The deputy administration chief of D. city was killed in Tver by a bullet from a revolver. The investigation team that analyzed the motivational aspect of the case established that there had been a difference of opinion between the victim and a group of local businessmen and dealers from neighboring countries over an order for the construction of a prestige development and the right to preferential use of the plot of land allocated for that purpose. All the criminals could come up with was the idea of hiring a killer, who removed the "obstacle" in the person of the leader.

Criminal investigation officers in Moscow exposed the deputy general director of a joint venture who, in an effort to conceal some illegal financial transactions, hired a killer, who shot one of his business partners. Then another strangled the perpetrator of the first murder, thus removing a damgerous witness.

I could continue to give examples of this kind, but there is something more important. Analysis shows that the bulk of the contract killings are committed because of conflicts in the sphere of commercial and financial activity arising in the struggle for markets, for spheres of influence, and for other mercenary motives.

[Klimov] Figures have appeared in the press that some 30,000 murders have been committed in three months. The Internal Affairs Ministry is accused of doing nothing about it. What have you to say about this?

[Yerin] Accusing the Internal Affairs Ministry is a familiar ploy, and the normal thing to do for many people. Although it is forgotten that it is not the Internal Affairs Ministry system that causes crime. It is a product of relationships in society, of its diseases.

As for the figures you cited, I would say that they are untrue. In the first quarter 7,581 murders or attempted murders were recorded. Some 4,659 or 75 percent of them were solved through the militia's efforts. Three-fourths of the killers were arrested. A substantial and tangible result. But we still have a great deal to do to improve this work.

But let us consider something else. Last year internal affairs organs for the first time had to identify and solve murders committed in order to obtain privatized housing. In Moscow alone it was established that more than 20 people had been killed after sales contracts had been drawn up. Killings masquerading as cases where citizens have disappeared without trace are also becoming widespread. Why is it that those who establish and adopt the procedure for legal arrangements relating to privatization and inheritance fail to rectify these things immediately in order to prevent further tragedies?

Weapons have become an independent and constant factor in the deteriorating operational situation. In 1992 and 1993 the number of crimes in which firearms were used doubled.

The full-scale "Signal" and "Arsenal" operations that the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry is conducting are producing definite results. We have seized a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, thus preventing a number of dangerous crimes. But these weapons come from the enterprises that made them and from militarized components. Are their leaders thinking about ways to keep their extremely dangerous property safe? Have they done all they can to rule out any possibility of thefts or losses and illegal sales of weapons?

Militia operational services and the investigative apparatus have been under extreme pressure for a long time, facing two-to-four times as much work as normal. The physical, mental, intellectual, and emotional capacity of the officer is being tested to the limit.

Recently they have succeeded in neutralizing a whole series of bandit gangs. For instance, a gang headed by S., a former convict, was arrested for committing 15 or so assaults and murders of heavy truck drivers in Moscow and Moscow Oblast in order to seize the truck and its load. Similar gangs have been detained in Krasnodar and Maritime Krays and Khakasia. Dangerous maniac killers have even been identified and exposed in Moscow and Khabarovsk.

Our most skilled cadres are always sent in to solve crimes like these and arrest and neutralize the criminals. We expect officers to be tough and uncompromising in these extreme situations and use weapons and special facilities on a legitimate basis. Last year the militia used weapons on 2,739 occasions; 1,561 criminals were wounded and 376 were killed.

In 1993 the murder rate increased by around 50 percent, this year it has increased by less than nine percent. For the first time in some years the number of killings fell in 28 regions. In three months the ongoing investigations of more than 4,700 murder cases were completed as a result of measures adopted in conjunction with the Prosecutor's Office investigative components. In 29 percent of the remaining cases we now have defendants, and the files on them will be passed to the courts.

[Klimov] What and who is hindering the militia's fight against crime?

[Yerin] Briefly, first and foremost, shortcomings in the existing legal base and elements of inconsistency in the implementation of a unified legal policy. Criminal laws must be hard-hitting—not savage, but capable of effectively neutralizing criminal activity. Their observance and unfailing execution will make it possible not only to curb but also to suppress crime.

The increase in crime requires a further strengthening of the staffs of operational, investigation, criminal expert, and other services, the improvement of vocational training and retention of cadres, and the provision of better equipment. And we are talking about not only Internal Affairs Ministry organs but the Prosecutor's Office, the courts, forensic medicine, and judicial administration. Our work on solving murders is bound up with investigations by the Prosecutor's Office, where the situation is rapidly deteriorating. For example, in a number of rayons of Khabarovsk Kray there are no Prosecutor's Office investigators at all any more. You have a similar situation in Irkutsk and a number of other oblasts.

The existing principle of merging minor with greater penalties looks archaic in present-day circumstances. Because of it defendants will be in the same position whether they have committed one or dozens of dangerous crimes.

In recent decades a liberal attitude to the application of the law has been gaining a foothold in investigation and judicial practice. I am not bloodthirsty but, if society is really concerned about the problem of crime, then it must ensure that those who break the law, especially those who do it deliberately, are severely punished.

The militia is tired of waiting for new laws reflecting the realities of social relations today. It is no accident that components of the Federation have lately begun issuing their own legal acts. The practice of applying them in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and Mordovia has not only demonstrated their effectiveness but has also revealed a curious phenomenon: Criminals have started actively "emigrating" from the republics on sensing the changes in the legal climate.

The Internal Affairs Ministry collegium, the leaders of the Internal Affairs Ministry, internal affairs admnistrations, transport internal affairs administrations, and other subunits and the vast majority of personnel are working hard to protect Russians from offenders. This is not an attempt to protect our reputation. We give no quarter to those internal affairs organs' officers who fall short of the high requirements of the job, who betray the interests of the service, or who are in cahoots with the criminal element. We have a great deal to do to increase the professionalism of the personnel and general standards.

At the same time, I believe that without a united front in the fight against crime we will not prevail. Everyone must do his bit to fight it: militia officer and journalist, moviemaker and pedagogue, deputy and scholar. It is a common cause.

Zyuganov Seen Favorite for Nationwide Opposition Leader

MK1305120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 May 94 p 3

[Yevgeniy Yanayev report in the "Opposition Is Looking for the Leader" column: "All Leaders Are Great but Zyuganov Can Become Even Greater"]

[Text] Russian opposition groups want to find a single leader and form a powerful movement around him. As the May Day demonstrations have shown, there are not a few wishing to become such a leader. Moreover, even such discarded political figures as Valentin Varennikov are trying to play first fiddle. Yesterday Varennikov was registered as a candidate for the Federation Council in the Chelyabinsk constituency. A founding congress of the Accord for Russia movement, scheduled for 19 May, is supposed to elect a Russia-wide leader.

The chances of Valentin Varennikov's making it back even into a group of opposition leaders, just as of securing a seat in parliament, are not very good. The opposition has far more colorful figures capable of claiming a leadership role. These are primarily Aleksandr Rutskoy, Gennadiy Zyuganov, Valeriy Zorkin, Ilya Konstantinov, and Sergey Baburin.

It was originally believed that they would all rally around the Accord for Russia movement whose founding congress, scheduled for 19 May, will clear up who is the most important among them. It can be presumed even now, however, that one of the initiators of this movement, Valeriy Zorkin, will most likely not be such. Obviously the Accord was to have become the former Constitutional Court chairman's sponsoring organization because there are no other forces behind him. However, although representatives of the majority of opposition parties and unions have signed the program document of this movement, no mighty coalition has emerged.

"October heroes" Aleksandr Rutskoy and Ilya Konstantinov are currently engaged in creating a new movement, The State [Derzhava]; Gennadiy Zyuganov has a self-sufficient Communist Party which has no particular need for blocs with any other organizations. Generally it now turns out that the majority of opposition politicians are convinced that Zorkin is obviously unfit for the role of leader, while the Accord has no chance of becoming much more than a Moscow political club.

As for Rutskoy and Konstantinov, it is also difficult to see any forces standing behind them. Meanwhile Rutskoy has already promised that the State movement will encompass thousands of people, that it will have an "iron discipline," and that finally, it will come to power no later than in a year. Yet it is absolutely unlikely that the opposition will want to recognize Rutskoy as leader. Most politicians from this camp relate to him negatively. Stanislav Terekhov considers him one of the main culprits for the October defeat while Gennadiy Zyuganov is convinced that after the amnesty Rutskoy must leave the political arena altogether. Even Konstantinov, who calls Rutskoy a friend, says in private that the former vice president "usually changes his views three times a day."

The political bankruptcy of the majority of the current opposition leaders could prove beneficial for Communist Party Chairman Gennadiy Zyuganov, who will thus get rid of competition. The fact that Zyuganov heads Russia's largest party and bears no responsibility for the opposition's October defeat makes him the most acceptable figure for the role of Russia-wide opposition leader. How realistic his chances of becoming such will be shown by the congress of the Free Russia People's Party, scheduled for 22 May, whose leadership Rutskoy may give up for the sake of creating the State movement. Then the sole thread linking the former vice president to any consequential political movement will be broken. Also critical for Zyuganov's future will be the Accord for Russia congress.

Khasbulatov Returns to Teaching Post in Academy

LD1305133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—Former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov is back in Moscow from his native Chechnya and has returned to work as the head of a desk at the Academy of National Economy where he used to teach before his political career began.

In an interview with the hard-line opposition "ZAVTRA" newspaper published on Friday, the former speaker, who was released from jail in February under the State Duma-proclaimed political amnesty, said he is not going to participate in opposition rallies and demonstrations and his political activity would manifest itself only in articles and interviews. "I am not a rally regular, I am not used to participating in demonstrations and shouting out slogans", he stressed.

Speaking about his arch rival Boris Yeltsin, Khasbulatov said that only "a fascist regime" could have pounded the parliamentary building with tanks, but stressed at the same time that he is sure that a big of top [as received] politicians wants to reform Russia on a democratic basis.

"Only a fascist regime could have surrounded the parliament with barbed wire, sent people armed to the teeth against lawmakers and their defenders, shot in [as received] women and children", he said and added "I nevertheless believed and still believe that a big group of policy-makers in this country strives to reform it on democratic grounds".

Khasbulatov praised his ally and former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy as "a politician with a great future, as a man who the people may trust".

During the October revolt Rutskoy behaved as a "dynamic and courageous" man, but his entourage failed him, according to Khasbulatov. "If Rutskoy with his understanding of issues in position of acting president was surrounded by competent specialists, the events could have gone in another way", he said.

Speaking about himself, Khasbulatov said that no "destructive" changes had occurred with him after he suffered a defeat in the October revolt and was imprisoned. "I left the prison just as I entered it", he said.

Counterintelligence Service Arrests 'Saboteur' Suspects

LD1305104994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0924 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—The Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) detained on Friday a group of people suspected of saboteur acts on transport and of other crimes committed in Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, ITAR- TASS learnt at the FCS public relations centre.

The service instituted a criminal case. It is conducting search and other investigative measures together with the chief military prosecutor's office.

Economic Issues

Budget Shows Commitment to Financial Stabilization

PM1305173794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 May 94 p 1

[Article by Sergey Dubinin, acting Russian minister of finance, under the "Economics" rubric: "The State Budget Reflects the Policy of Financial Stabilization"]

[Text] Following the State Duma's discussion of the draft federal budget, which has been finalized with due regard for deputies' comments, not even prejudiced observers must have any complaints against the government. All suspicions and rash accusations that the government is prepared to abandon the policy of financial stabilization under pressure from sectoral and regional lobbyists are refuted by dry figures.

We propose that the federal budget deficit will amount to 68.8 trillion rubles [R] this year and that it will not exceed 9.5 percent of GDP. At the same time the expenditure part of the budget is increasing by R10.1 trillion—which, in toto, will give R193.3 trillion. The increase in revenue will be a more modest R3.7 trillion—which, in the final analysis, will amount to R124 trillion.

These key indicators speak for themselves. Whether we will manage to consolidate our hold on these positions and not blow the budget to pieces with new "expenditure" decisions is another matter. But the draft's discussion in the State Duma and the assistance given us by deputies in the course of its correction make me confident that we have managed to arrange businesslike cooperation and work fruitfully on common problems.

Of course, it is impossible to reach a consensus that satisfies everyone without a search for sensible compromise solutions acceptable to both sides. In working on the draft budget, the Ministry of Finance endeavored to take the deputies' valid demands into consideration as far as possible. We agreed that the structure of expenditure must be shifted toward an increase in the size of funding for the agro-industrial complex, industry, and the social sphere. For example, cultural and health care establishments will receive an additional R968.4 billion. Appropriations to support the mass media (particularly television and radio broadcasting) will increase by R434 billion. One percent of personal income tax will henceforth remain at the disposal of the local authorities.

Policy on Consumer Goods Bonds, Indexing Savings Explained

PM1305105794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 94 First Edition p 2

[Letter from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial office to Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov followed by reply from Yarov: "Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov: Government Will Redeem its Debts"]

[Text]**Letter from Editorial Office**

Respected Yuriy Fedorovich! Our newspaper's editorial office has received a large number of letters in which our readers basically pose the following questions:

When will the Russian Federation Government be able to redeem the interest-free consumer goods bonds (against automobiles, television sets, refrigerators, etc.) purchased by citizens in 1990? The period for redeeming the bonds ran out in 1993, and over this period the invested money has become devalued and confidence in the government has been falling.

Will deposits made in Savings Bank accounts before the beginning of price liberalization be indexed, and if so, when?

Letter to Editorial Office

Like the editorial office of your newspaper, the Russian Federation Government receives quite a few letters in which Russian citizens ask questions about the fate of the 1990 state targeted interest-free loan bonds for consumer goods.

In 1990 the USSR Government issued bonds equal in value to the price of the corresponding consumer goods. It was envisaged that these bonds would be redeemed during 1993 by releasing the consumer goods—cars, motorcycles with sidecars, color television sets, compact tractors, videorecorders, two- and three-compartment refrigerators, microwave ovens, "Zig-Zag" sewing machines, "Vyatka-Avtomat" washing machines, and personal computers.

Russian citizens acquired 3,654,000 bonds for various types of commodities, including 143,700 for cars.

With conditions of strict state regulation of production and distribution of output (in accordance with quotas and stocks under a system of fixed prices), and taking into consideration the prospects for further growth in output of consumer goods in high demand, honoring the pledges the government had undertaken was feasible.

With the transition to a new system of economic management (without state orders for the production and delivery to the consumer market of cars and cultural, consumer, and household goods) and the actual absence of a number of goods prevented the pledges being honored in 1993. For example, when 30,000 compact tractors were due in 1993 only 7,000 of them were produced, likewise the figures for videorecorders were 588,000 and 268,000 respectively. Apart from this, centralized deliveries of certain types of goods from former union republics stopped (like, for example, "Tavriya" automobiles from Ukraine and "Minsk" refrigerators from Belorussia [Belarus]), for which bonds had also been issued.

The Russian Federation Government is preparing a package of documents which would allow a resolution of the problem by redeeming all types of state goods bonds with a partial indexation of their face value based on the federal budget's actual potential.

Specifically, the Russian Federation Government adopted 16 April 1994 Decree No. 344 "On State Goods Bonds," in accordance with which the Finance Ministry will redeem holders' 1990 targeted interest-free loan bonds for domestically produced consumer goods (apart from for cars) in accordance with present consumer prices, and for cars at 60 percent of their price. It will also pay off liabilities in respect of pledges to suppliers of agricultural output from the 1991 harvest. All these measures will be taken between 15 June 1994 and 1 June 1995 using the federal budget's assets. In the draft 1994 budget 2 trillion rubles have been set aside to redeem bonds.

That is, despite all the difficulties, the government has found an opportunity to repay its debt to the citizens of Russia.

The second set of questions concerns the indexation of people's deposits in the Russian Savings Bank. This is an important though fairly complex problem. Clearly, everyone understands well that to instantly restore the deposits' value might lead to an abrupt boosting of inflationary processes. Moreover, the state does not today have at its disposal the necessary financial resources to index all the deposits realistically.

In connection with this, one possible way of resolving the problem is to transfer state property, state enterprises' shares, and land to the depositors. But time is needed to identify the items of state property, part of whose value could be transferred to offset the depositors' losses, and to establish the conditions and time scales for their transfer, that is, it is impossible to carry out full and immediate indexation at the moment.

But the government is resolving these questions too.

In accordance with the Russian Federation Government's plan for immediate action, which was confirmed by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 192 of 9 March 1994, the Russian Ministry of Finance, the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, the Russian Ministry of Economics, and the Russian Ministry of Social Protection of the Population have been entrusted with the task of preparing the necessary normative acts on these questions in May of this year.

Media Issues

Government Ratifies RIA NOVOSTI Charter

LD1305163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1835 GMT 12 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 12 May—The Charter of the Russian Information Agency "NOVOSTI" (RIA "NOVOSTI"), which has been ratified by the Russian Government, confirms the status of the agency as a state enterprise. The document states that RIA "NOVOSTI" operates as a state news and analysis agency, and is the successor of the "NOVOSTI" information agency. The government of the Russian Federation is its founder.

RIA "NOVOSTI's" main tasks are set out as being the dissemination of objective information about major events of socioeconomic and political life in Russia and abroad; formation of favorable Russian and world public opinion about the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation; providing news and analysis for the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation; assisting the development of informational, cultural and other links with foreign countries, and enhancing the international prestige of the Russian Federation. The range of the agency's activities is outlined in the charter in line with these tasks.

As founder of RIA "NOVOSTI," the Russian Federation Government allocates funds for the agency's operations, including its expenditure on developing its material and technical base, capital construction, implementation of social programs for the agency staff, operational requirements, maintenance of agency offices, payment for communications services, provision of information services to the administration of the Russian Federation president, the Federal Assembly, the Russian Federation Government and the federal bodies of executive authority.

In accordance with the charter, RIA "NOVOSTI" is headed by the chairman of the board, who is appointed, as are his deputies, by the Russian Federation Government. The consultative body, the RIA "NOVOSTI" board, is made up of the chairman of the RIA "NOVOSTI" board, his deputies and other senior staff, and also of representatives of other organizations, enterprises and institutions.

Ekho Moskvy Radio at Risk in Move of Russian Press House

MK1305113094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "GLAGOL Closes Down, While 'Echo' Dies Away"]

[Text] The decisions in regard to the Russian Press House are essentially discrimination against the mass media on the part of the power structures, and they abridge citizens' rights to get information, says a statement of the Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation president, ITAR- TASS reports.

As many people know, at issue is the second move for the Russian Press House from premises where nearly 40 mass media editorial offices operate.

The document states that the new move has paralyzed the work of dozens of editorial offices. The collectives are incurring losses running into millions. The children's newspaper GLAGOL has been forced to announce closure. The board of the "Echo of Moscow" joint-stock company made a decision on liquidating the "Echo Moskvy" radio station if the losses and outlays are not paid. In its appeal the Judicial Chamber urges the organs of state power "to find a wise solution."

Ousted Editor Linnik 'Thrashed' in PRAVDA Office Incident

PM1305110594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Petr Kondrashov report: "Greeks Short on Conversation: They Prefer a Quick Blow on the Head. PRAVDA's Owners Reprimand V. Linnik for Poor Work"]

[Text] An incident occurred on the evening of 11 May in PRAVDA Chief Editor Aleksandr Ilin's office that was probably the first in the oldest Communist newspaper's 82-year existence. According to eyewitnesses, it all started with Viktor Linnik, appointed PRAVDA's chief by the court, accusing Ilin of attempting to improve his material position at the newspaper's expense. However Linnik's recriminations rebounded on him: Sokolenko, a spokesman for the Greeks on the editorial board, whom Ilin called as a witness, said that the owners do not pay the incumbent chief editor a kopek extra and Linnik himself, according to Sokolenko, as leader of PRAVDA, regularly received large amounts of hard currency from the Greeks (and there are allegedly receipts to prove it), but despite this he demanded more. After this Linnik attacked the Greeks' representative like an enraged bear, but he probably got more than he bargained for and following a brief scuffle was well and truly thrashed by his former employer.

It is worthy of note that, despite this, PRAVDA published in the morning as always without a hitch.

Military Issues

Aviation Bomb Depot Explodes in Maritime Territory

LD1405084494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok May 14 TASS—A depot of aviation bombs belonging to the Pacific Fleets's air wing exploded on Saturday near the village of Novonezhino in the Russian Far Eastern maritime territory.

According to the duty officer of the maritime territory civil defence headquarters, the explosion occurred at 15.40 local time in the village which is located 100 kilometers north of the territory's administrative centre Vladivostok. There have been no immediate reports about damages or casualties.

Armored vehicles have been dispatched to the area to evacuate the inhabitants. A group of specialists of the federal counterintelligence service and the commander of the Pacific Fleet's air wing have departed for the area.

The effects of the explosion were felt in Vladivostok and the city of Artem as earthquake tremors. Alarmed people have been phoning the Far Eastern regional rescue service to find out what caused the tremors and what they should do in the situation. Meanwhile the civil defence headquarters has reported that there is no danger for the cities of Artem and Vladivostok.

The explosion occurred exactly two years after the Pacific Fleet depot in Vladivostok exploded on May 14, 1992.

There were no nuclear or chemical weapons in the aviation bomb depot of the Russian Pacific Fleet's air wing where a shattering explosion occurred on Saturday afternoon, sources in the Russian Federal Ministry of Emergencies told ITAR-TASS. There was no immediate information about the causes and effects of the explosion.

An electrical train has arrived at Novonezhino to evacuate local inhabitants, and a special group from the Russian Defence Ministry has left Moscow by plane en route to Vladivostok and the site of the explosion.

As reported earlier, another explosion occurred two years ago today, on May 14, 1992 at the Pacific Fleet ammunition dump on the outskirts of Vladivostok near the factories Izumrud (Emerald) and Varyag (Varangian).

At that time a fire broke out through negligence of the service personnel at the ammunition dump which held 2200 truckloads of ammunition. 122-mm and 100-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mines kept exploding for several days with their splinters sent hurling for miles around. Civil defence and army units, the city militia, firefighters and ambulance cars were brought out in force to combat the fire. Several people, including military school cadets were killed and considerable damage was done to the storage facilities of the Russian Pacific Fleet in the region.

First Deputy Commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet Igor Khmelnov flew to the site of the explosion at a Pacific Fleet air wing ammunition dump, which occurred at 16.00 local time, the Russian Defence Ministry's information and press department told ITAR-TASS.

According to the same source, for the time being there is no direct communication with the military settlement in which the disaster occurred.

Forces and means of Pacific Fleet units have been dispatched to the site to look into the situation and clean up the effects of the explosion.

Interaction has been arranged between the Defence Ministry and the specialists of the Russian Federal Ministry of Emergencies.

The fire at the Pacific Fleet Air Wing's ammunition dump, which resulted from today's explosion, is being localized, according to the fleet's senior duty officer Vsevolod Fadeyev.

According to Fadeyev, groups of specialists, including sappers, have arrived on the scene, where first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Igor Khmelnov is in charge of the clean- up operations.

The Pacific Fleet Commander Georgiy Gurinov is at the fleet's main command post, coordinating the activity of all the forces involved. The fleet's structures are on the stand-by.

Fadeyev also said that fleet units and security forces are controlling the situation in the disaster area, and the evacuation of residents from Novonezhino is being managed effectively.

Explosion Area Evacuated

LD1405103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 14 May—As a result of today's explosion of ammunition depots belonging to the Pacific Fleet's air wing, there are casualties. According to preliminary data obtained by ITAR-TASS, all windows in the settlement of Novonezhino, located near the accident site, were blown out by the shock wave [of the blast].

The evacuation of the settlement's 3,000 inhabitants has begun. They are being taken to the towns of Bolshoy Kamen and Partizansk, where they are being accommodated in palaces of culture and sport, hotels, and hostels. The evacuation operation is being directed by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of administration of Primorskiy Kray.

According to a report from the hospital in Bolshoy Kamen, the first casualties, with slight injuries, have arrived there from the vicinity of the explosion.

In order to avoid further mishaps, the military and the militia have cordoned off the accident site within a radius of 30 km. Traffic on the Vladivostok-Nakhodka road, which passes through Novonezhino, has been stopped.

Depot Contained 'Unguided Missiles'

LD1405174394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] This is what IMA-PRESS has to say: At 1530 local time [0530 GMT] today, the inhabitants of Vladivostok saw a huge explosive mushroom, similar to that from a nuclear explosion. Lieutenant-Colonel (Kuliyev), duty officer of the Maritime region's civil defense, reported the storage depot contained neither chemical nor biological nor nuclear munitions, but only unguided [neupravlayemiye] missiles, shells, and depth charges. At 2230 Vladivostok time [1230 GMT], the fire and explosions were continuing. The area was concealed by thick smoke, therefore it is difficult to assess the damage. There is information about a great number of injured, mostly people hurt by glass splinters from windows which were put out in all the surrounding settlements. The director of Vladivostok private radio station, (Dmitriy Bruzgin), informed IMA-PRESS that more than 10 eyewitnesses had phoned the radio with reports of people injured. Pioneer camps, dormitories and hotels are being prepared for the evacuation of settlements near to the scene.

Villages Not Damaged

LD1405162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 14 May—The Chief Command of the Russian Navy, the Ministry for Emergency Situations, and the Pacific Fleet's Command are undertaking all possible measures to eliminate the consequences of today's explosion that resulted from a fire at the fleet's aviation munitions dump near the village of Novonezhino in Maritime Kray.

ITAR-TASS has been told in the press center of the Russian Navy that an armored group of a Pacific Fleet coastal defense formation, tanks, and armored personnel carriers are operating in the area; some of the fleet's aircraft (a plane and a helicopter) have been brought in to study the site of the accident.

According to data currently available, there have been no victims among the guards or the personnel servicing the dump.

According to the assessments of specialists, the distance to which shrapnel will scatter as a result of the munitions' explosions (conventional munitions were stored at the dump) rules out the possibility of their falling on housing and other buildings of the civilian population of the villages of Novonezhino and Romanovka.

The situation in the disaster area is under unremitting control.

Looters To Be Shot

LD1405161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok, 15 May—Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, has issued an order that troops should open fire to hit anyone looting in the settlement of Novonezhino and neighboring villages from which all the civilian population were evacuated today after the explosion at the Fleet's aviation munitions dumps. There were no victims resulting from the explosion.

The situation in the emergency zone is under control. All the military installations and housing have been taken under the protection of the military and militia. During the night the Kray Commission for Emergency Situations will provide the affected population with everything they need.

Protected by the armor of two tanks, military personnel carried out a reconnaissance of the fire site. Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, head of the administration of Maritime Kray, Vice Admiral Igor Khmelnov, first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet, Colonel Vladimir Ipatov, head of the Internal Affairs Directorate, and General Viktor Kondratov, head of the Directorate of the Federal Counterintelligence Service for Maritime Kray, are now at the scene of the accident.

The Pacific Fleet press center confirmed to ITAR-TASS that there are no nuclear or chemical weapons in the munitions dumps.

Explosion 'Equivalent' to Nuclear Bomb

OW1605033494 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0210 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Lunch Hour Break" program]

[Text] As you know a catastrophe occurred at Novonezhino on 14 May, exactly two years after the explosions at the Vtoraya Rechka fleet arsenal in Vladivostok. According to witnesses the power of the explosion the day before yesterday was equivalent to the explosion of a nuclear bomb and it was a terrible scene. The area looks like a war zone. This was confirmed by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, the kray governor, who went on the air over our television and radio company yesterday. He noted the coordination and operational efficiency of the militia, fleet, and administration throughout the kray, the medical services and everyone who was called up during the emergency.

Disasters unite people and in such a critical situation people show their best qualities. According to reports, the fire in Novonezhino was localized on Sunday [15 May] and people have returned to their homes. But how much effort and money will now be needed to restore normal life and eliminate the consequences of the disaster? The cause of the catastrophe is not yet known but an investigation is underway and the commission will report on its findings.

Maritime Official Reports Details

LD1605081194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok May 16 TASS—The gigantic blast of ammunition in the village of Novonezheno in Russia's Far Eastern Maritime Territory on May 14 lasted for several hours as nearly 1,600 tonnes of bombs and various missiles, as well as landmines and artillery shells exploded one by one and in groups, showering the ground with fragments and splinters for miles around. Several shells and missiles hit the city of Bolshoy Kamen, many kilometres from Novonezhino.

This was announced on Monday at a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists by the head of administration of the Maritime Territory Yevgeniy Nazdratenko. He also said that units of field engineers are being brought to the Maritime Territory from Russia's entire Pacific rim to clean up the effects of the accident. They are expected to thoroughly inspect the entire affected territory, locate and eliminate any unexploded ammunition. Yevgeniy Nazdratenko said the bombs, missiles and shells which have remained intact in the storage facilities will be exploded, and the facility will never be restored in the same place, particularly since the local inhabitants had expressed their disagreement with its location for some time past.

Fire Leaves No Casualties

LD1505094894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 15 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Balyakin]

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS—The fire at an ammunition depot of the Pacific Fleet has been extinguished by 5:00 A.M. Moscow time Sunday.

Officials from the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations told ITAR-TASS that the fire had caused explosions, while unexploded shells had been scattered within the range of 10 kilometers from the ammunition depot.

A total of 200 out of 800 wagons containing ammunition had been destroyed by the fire. Service rooms for the guards, soldiers' barracks and other wooden constructions were reduced to rubble and a railway track was partially damaged as well. Windows were smashed out and roofs of buildings damaged in nearby settlements. No casualties were reported.

Explosions stopped at 13:00 P.M. on May 14, but occasional explosions of small-calibre shells were reported throughout the night from May 14 to May 15. Around 14:00 P.M. Moscow time, 2,500 people had been evacuated from the dangerous zone by el-trains [as received] and trucks to the towns of Partizansk and Bolshoy Kamen.

Now that the fire has been extinguished and the situation came back to normal, the Commission for Emergency Situations of the Maritime region decided to return the evacuated people to places of their permanent residence. The territory of the depot and nearby areas are being inspected by air and ground emergency teams.

Explosion Caused by Spring Stubble Burning

LD1405140294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A chain of explosions was set off today by a fire at the Pacific Fleet aviation bomb depot, situated near the settlement of Novonezhino, 100 kilometers from Vladivostok. Our correspondent Olga Zhurman has further details.

[Zhurman] The fire alarm was sounded at 1520 hours. According to preliminary information, it was caused by the spring stubble burning. The shell explosions spread over a distance of approximately six or seven kilometers. According to the military, no nuclear or chemical weapons were stored at the depot. The fire is still going on. The governor of the kray, head of the internal affairs department, and head of the kray's federal counterintelligence service are at the site of the accident. According to them, there are no casualties. Several houses in Novoneshino had their roofs blown off. The explosion wave broke a large glass display window of a department store in the town of Artem. Explosions can be heard in one of the Vladivostok districts across the Ussuriysk Bay, which separates the city from the accident site. The inhabitants of Novonizhino and the nearby settlements are being evacuated. The site of the accident has been cordoned off.

13 May Chemical Blast Reported at Chelyabinsk Nuclear Site

LD1605062494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0529 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk May 16—Two researchers at the Russian Federal Nuclear Centre in Snezhinsk (former Chelyabinsk-70) were seriously injured in a chemical explosive blast on Friday, May 13, deputy director of the Technical Physics Research Institute Vladislav Nikitin told ITAR-TASS.

The blast occurred at 10.45 on Friday at a safe distance from the centre's nuclear reactors and caused no change in the radiation background on the scene and around.

The blast occurred on a testing site where a new device was being tested for the rehabilitation of old oil wells under a conversion programme. Ten grams of chemical explosive were used in the device with no radioactive components.

The investigation of the accident is now under way. The institute chief, professor Vladimir Nechai has suspended all operations associated with risks.

There is no threat to the lives of engineer Nikolay Kosorukov and researcher Andrey Stepanov who were injured in the blast.

Defense Budget Said Inadequate To Maintain Nuclear Forces

LD1605102894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0909 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow 16 May—Military experts believe that the defense budget, whose first reading has been approved by the State Duma, may effectively deprive Russia of its strategic nuclear forces (SNF), which could in turn call in question the need to comply with the international START I and START II Treaties.

They feel that if funding remains fixed at the level of 1993 and the first quarter of this year, meeting only 10 percent of the SNF's requirements, then by the year 2000 the strategic missile forces (SMF) will have only 90 launch facilities left at their disposal.

Three years after that there will be none left at all. So, the whole point of complying with the stipulations of the START I Treaty and of ratifying START II will have been lost. The aims of these documents, which set out parameters for reduction of strategic offensive armaments, will have been achieved and exceeded "automatically."

Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, head of the main directorate for the military budget and funding of the Russian Defense Ministry, told ITAR-TASS today that the funds earmarked for the Defense Ministry are scarcely enough to settle debts for electricity, food, property services, and municipal charges. He said that the payment of debts for supplies of equipment and armaments was also in doubt. There is no funding for research and development work, including research in areas regarded as crucial to national security.

Military experts are of the view that the budget should be adjusted in order to ensure that Russia remains a nuclear power and does not lose its status. When defense spending comes up for consideration in the State Duma for a second time, it would be expedient, they say, to take account of the need to maintain nuclear parity as the main guarantee of the state's national security. In accordance with the international treaties, by the year 2000 Russia should have 900 SMF launch facilities. The aviation component of the SNF should have 900 weapons and the naval component 1,700. In line with the treaty, the total number of Russian nuclear warheads should be 3,500. This is rather fewer than the United States, but wholly sufficient to deter a potential enemy. This provision is enshrined in the new military doctrine and corresponds to the interests of national security.

Duma's Defense Budget Cuts Criticized

PM1305114594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "State Duma Denies the Army Its 'Subsistence Minimum'"]

[Text] The 1994 state budget was given its first reading by the State Duma 11 May. The total budget expenditure, revenues, and deficit were approved. The deficit stands at 36 percent of the budget. The Ministry of Defense request (backed by the Russian Federation president) that 18 trillion rubles be added to the defense budget failed to gain the requisite number of votes. Nor was any attention paid to the desperate attempts by the Duma Committee for Defense (chairman—Sergey Yushenkov) to convince deputies that the point at issue concerned not some kind of excessive requirements but the elementary "subsistence minimum" needed by the Armed Forces to maintain the country's defense capability at the requisite level.

Acting Finance Minister Mr. Dubinin used essentially the same argument to parry all arguments in the Army's favor: Any appropriation of additional sums for defense would increase the budget deficit which, in turn, would lead to a new spiral of inflation and higher prices, which would mean that everyone—including the Army—would end up as losers. As a matter of fact, the selfsame way to curb inflation was also chosen by the "Russia's Choice" faction and the Yabloko bloc.

Recognizing the critical danger of unleashing inflationary processes with a budget deficit in excess of 40 percent, representatives of several other factions suggested different measures. For example, Sergey Glazyev (Democratic Party of Russia faction), chairman of the State Duma Committee for Economic Policy, questioned the need to spend such impressive amounts on the maintenance of the state apparatus. Furthermore, he assumes that the planned revenues from the privatization of state property have been inexplicably reduced. According to specialists, there are other ways making it possible to painlessly increase the financial support for defense, science, culture, and education. But the State Duma and the government now perceive the Army as the main "defendant" when it comes to anti-inflation security.

I would imagine that there is no need to explain to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers—whose knowledge of today's realities in the Armed Forces is not based on speculative surveys—the meaning of the defense budget's reduction by a factor of 1.5 from the original estimates. Essentially this means further decrepitude of the Army's military-technical potential and curtailment of the structural changes envisaged by the military reform (the loudest shouts of "Where are the Army reforms?" come from those who refuse to allocate money for these reforms).

It has to be bluntly said that the shorn defense budget will deal a crushing blow on enterprises working on military orders. We all know that there are quite a few such enterprises in the country. Workers and engineers from the defense sector have only just ended their protest actions outside Government House. They were promised real assistance. But it appears that hundreds of thousands of people are again being told to switch to a "self-survival regime." Subsidies have also been cut for the long-suffering conversion which actually degenerates into convulsion at times, while scientific and technical work in the military sphere is being frozen with consequences which are easy to calculate. But is anyone today worried about tomorrow? As a matter of fact, no specific evidence was adduced during the debate to prove that the Army was asking for excessive funding. On the other hand, there was no shortage of significant dark hints.

Those who object to the 18 trillion speak of the military department's inability to properly manage the funds appropriated for defense, but it all boils down to accusations of "inflated corps of generals." There are no counterarguments at the level of professional and comprehensive analysis. Just emotions. Meanwhile, the situation among the troops is verging on the critical in many instances. Here is just one "sore spot." Much has been said about the nuclear missile-carrying Northern Fleet. Way back in August last year, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote about the lamentable situation in the fleet, which is bearing the full brunt of the principle of "surplus financing." One can imagine the impact of the "shorn" budget on the combat ranks of a fleet which used to be one of the world's mightiest.

I will not even attempt to explain the stub[illegible]nness with which some deputies and ministers are [illegible] to literally finish off both the country's defense [illegible]y and the Armed Forces themselves. In the course of private conversations they display absolute understanding of the problems currently facing the Army and the military-industrial complex but, when it comes to decision-making time, certain corporate considerations of "big-time politics" seem to gain the upper hand. Then everything becomes simple—blame all the failures of economic reform on the insatiable appetite of the "military monster." After all, nobody suggested the idea of maintaining the country's defense capability at exactly the level of the sum contained in the government's budget. Let backstage passions rage, let lobbyists tear each other's shirts off, but a simple point must be obvious to all deputies: The Army (whether reformed or unreformed) cannot be maintained on starvation rations. It is impossible to rush into the nuclear magazine with "shock therapy" mentality. Unfortunately, if we were to judge by the results of the vote, at least 80 State Duma deputies believe that this can be done.

"This is both a strategic and a political defeat," I was told by Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the Committee for Defense, after the sitting. "At best, the second reading will add just 1-2 trillion to the defense budget, which will not solve the problem."

Even though Aleksandr Aleksandrovich did not explain who had been defeated, it is clear that it was neither the military department nor the Army. A temporary gain at the expense of Russia's defense might will hardly improve the country's ailing economy, and the loss will not be long in coming: The Army, put on financial starvation rations, will hardly be able to remain a factor of stability in the state.

Missile, Artillery Academy Presidium Holds First Session

PM1305131594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Nikolai Burbyga: "Development of 'Intellectual' Weapons One of the Main Military-Technical Priorities"]

[Text] The first session of the presidium of the Russian Academy of Missile and Artillery Science, recently resurrected by an edict of the Russian president, has been held in Moscow.

First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin stressed that this academy is designed to be an important organ uniting leading scientists of various specialities engaged in developing promising technologies for arms systems using artillery and missile weapons. Among the military-technical projects which are being implemented first place goes to the creation of "intellectual" weapons systems capable of striking primarily the "nerve centers" of the other side's armed forces and taking out the enemy's complex equipment.

Federal Assembly

State Duma Committees Resume Work After Move

MK1305100094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 94 p 1

[Indira Dunayeva report under the "Parliament" rubric: "State Duma's Debut in a New Place. Lawmaking Activity Resumed With New Vigor"]

[Text] At the State Duma's new head office (the former building of the USSR State Planning Committee) yesterday, a number of Duma committees that have had time to move there held their meetings.

The Legislation and Judicial-Law Reform Committee passed its opinion on the draft federal law "On the Basic Guarantees of Citizens' Electoral Rights," which was discussed by the committee back on 25 April. The opinion says that the draft's content is inconsistent with its name—in particular, "regarding the extent to which a number of the draft's provisions, for instance, on electoral commissions, are related to the guarantees of citizens' electoral rights." Committee members think it arguable that the electoral commissions should be defined as bodies of state power and the Central Electoral Commission as a federal state body. In the committee's view, the law gives an unreasonably narrow interpretation of citizens' electoral rights, which boil down to the right to elect and to get elected, while the nomination of candidates, the conduct of electoral campaigns, and so forth have been left outside the term. In addition, the draft does not establish an upper age limit upon reaching which the citizen may not get elected. When assessing the document in general, however, the committee proposed that it be submitted to the State Duma for consideration, while at the same time setting up for further work a joint group made up of deputies, Duma committee staffers, and also representatives of the Russian president and the Central Electoral Commission.

Having considered the draft federal law "On Making Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Code on

Administrative Law Violations," the Legislation Committee made numerous editorial amendments to it and recommended that the draft be brought in line with the Russian Federation Constitution, after which it should be put before the State Duma Council.

The Committee on the Affairs of Public Associations and Religious Organizations was preoccupied with preparations for two roundtables—16 May, on the draft law on political parties; and 19 May, on the draft law on trade unions. The roundtables will be attended by representatives of parties and trade union leaders. Yesterday, a commission preparing parliamentary hearings on the threat of fascism in Russia held its meeting at the same committee.

The Committee on Information Policy and Communications considered amendments to the Law on Coverage of Government Authorities' Activity by State-Owned Mass Media. According to Igor Yakovenko, a committee member, the law is currently leading in the number of amendments made to it. The committee decided to back only those that eliminate excessive regulation of mass media activity. In addition, the committee elected its representatives—Igor Yakovenko ("Yabloko") and Valentin Chikin (Communist Party of the Russian Federation)—to sit on the commission on state support for the mass media at the Russian Press Committee.

Duma Adopts Anticorruption Bills

LD1305171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS—By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] The State Duma (lower house of the Russian Parliament) adopted on Friday bills on corruption control and on amendments and addenda to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedural Code of the Russian Federation in the first reading.

A heated debate between factions preceded the approval.

Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the lower chamber security committee, who submitted the bills to legislators, noted that the need for their adoption is predetermined by the fact that crime in Russia has substantially changed its forms and substance.

According to the chairman, the number of the convicted for bribe- taking substantially decreased as compared with the 1980s, which indicates that legislation is utterly outdated.

He stressed at the same time that mobs, using loopholes in the present laws, "influence the adoption of political decisions up to the level of member republics of the Russian Federation".

Ilyukhin reported that he has information showing that the underworld is laying hands on 55 per cent of capital and 80 per cent of voting shares in the country. The chairman stressed that the bill was drafted by specialists from the Prosecutor's Office, courts, the tax service, the Interior Ministry and the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

He noted that, in the opinion of foreign experts, measures in the bills aimed at fighting bribe-taking and corruption are "very lenient".

Representatives from the Russia's Choice, Yabloko and Russia's Women factions opposed the adoption of the bills in the first reading. Their main arguments were that the bills indicate an extremely broad range of people who can be held responsible for bribe-taking and corruption, while the state should, in fact, ensure control over incomes of the entire population.

Ilyukhin's opponents claimed that the mechanism of the bills will not permit to bring to court high-ranking grafters.

The Party of Russian Unity and Accord and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) supported the bills on the whole but suggested that they should be finalised, taking into account remarks at today's debate, and adopted in the first reading in the near future.

Advocates of the bills noted that their opponents poorly studied the documents and intend to dump them. They also claimed that fight against bribe-taking and corruption should be started from the lowest levels and that all law-breakers should be put in the dock, irrespective of their posts whether he is an engineer at a house- repair administration or a high-ranking politician.

LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy expressed a special opinion, noting that the bills are necessary. Nevertheless, their adoption will be useless. "The Duma is not ready to fight corruption in its ranks," he underlined.

"Therefore, it cannot fight corruption on a nation-wide scale," he claimed. This notwithstanding, Liberal Democrats voted for the adoption of the bills in the first reading.

Fedorov Submits Alternative Bill on Central Bank Policy

LD1605110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS—State Duma member and former finance minister Boris Fedorov, an arch rival of chief banker Viktor Gerashchenko, resumed attacks on the Central Bank of Russia by proposing his own lawbill on the main financial institution of the country which caused bitter opposition of its representatives.

Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank Aleksandr Khandruyev told the Duma subcommittee on credit and monetary policy on Monday that the lawbill is "contradicting the constitution in the main provision regarding the independence of the Central Bank from executive and legislative authorities".

Fedorov proposed to set up an observers' council for the Central Bank. Besides, he envisaged a possibility for the Finance Ministry to temporarily suspend the activities of the Central Bank which cannot be done even by the president and the prime minister.

Khandruyev said that the lawbill establishes "collective leadership" for the bank which contradicts the constitution.

Fedorov fired back by saying that he was surprised by "the unconstructive position of the Central Bank".

Khandruyev's bitter criticism of the document was not shared by other people participating in the discussion.

Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Kazmin qualified the lawbill as "a serious attempt to establish a law of direct action for the Central Bank". Chairman of the Association of Russian Banks Vyacheslav Zakharov said the document "favourably differs" from the one drafted by the Central Bank itself, but admitted that the influence of the Finance Ministry, which Fedorov used to head, can be seen in it.

The subcommittee recommended the Duma to consider Fedorov's lawbill as an alternative to the draft of the Central Bank.

Duma, Polotoranin Seen Seeking Financial Control Over Media

MK1305124094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 19/44, 13-19 May 94 (Signed to press 12 May) p 4

[Unattributed "own information" report in the "Poklonnaya Hill [pun meaning the war memorial in Moscow and a place where one bows to authority in a bid to obtain a favor]" column: "How To Dispose of 111 Billion. New Facts About the Subsidy Commission"]

[Text] According to informal reports from government sources, Mikhail Poltoranin, current chairman of the State Duma Information Policy and Communications Committee, intends to head a subsidy commission (it will possibly be called more "democratically" a public council) which is being set up to distribute among the needy publications government funds allocated to maintain the domestic press. The sum of 111 billion is not very large and therefore obviously many chief editors will go hat in hand to Poltoranin like in the good old days, and he will be making eyes at some and thumbing his nose at others. An important question now being aired in the Russian Press Committee, which has lobbied for increased government subsidies, is the composition of this commission. It was expected that the commission would include primarily experienced journalists, enjoying the unquestionable respect of their colleagues, people with a name. It seems, however, that its bulk will be constituted by State Duma deputies who are already actively seeking to take their chance to direct and boss the media around. In all likelihood it will be Poltoranin himself who will be selecting subsidy commission members.

It will be recalled that a similar, 1993-style, commission to distribute budget funds between the publications included two representatives of the State Press Committee, two deputies from the then Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's Mass Media Committee, and two deputies from the Supreme Soviet Budget Committee. It should be noted that the promised 111 billion is not available so far. At first the Finance Ministry was going to resolve this problem in April, but now it does not promise to provide the funds until the end of May. Actually the subsidy commission is to be established by the moment the funds come forth.

Glazyev: Current Policy Threatens Economic Sovereignty

MK1405092094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 94 p 1

[Ivan Zasurskiy report in the "Concept" column: "Sergey Glazyev Is Making Preparations for the Second Budget Reading. The People's Alliance Designs an Institution of Direct Democracy"]

[Text] Leaders of the People's Alliance held a press conference in the State Duma yesterday on budget and economic policy matters. Journalists were also presented with a draft federal law, On People's Legislative Initiative. This draft should "for the first time give Russia's citizens the right to submit a particular law to parliament by raising signatures." This draft federal law has been moved in the State Duma by People's Alliance member Muravyev, who in a note of explanation cites the experience of such an institution of "direct democracy" in many countries, for instance, Switzerland, Italy, and Brazil. Characteristically, the proposed draft grants the right of legislative initiative to groups of no less than 1 million citizens. This deprives the draft of much of its relevance but shows an evolution in public relations methods characteristic of a competitive political environment where there is not always room for formations like the People's Alliance.

Perhaps the most substantive part of the press conference was a statement by Sergey Glazyev, State Duma Economic Policy Committee chairman, who expressed his attitude to the budget approved on the first reading and the results of the vote.

In Sergey Glazyev's opinion the government did not introduce any significant changes into the budget, limiting itself to local adjustments, such as: increasing the budget deficit, raising privatization revenues by a trillion, and so forth.

Glazyev sees the budget policy underlying the approved draft as consisting in the distribution of resources between the fuel and energy and the agro-industrial complexes. At the same time it fails to take into account the priorities of supporting science-intensive industry and promoting conversion which were set forth in the presidential message.

There is still a glaring contradiction between the government forecast which was used as a basis for the estimate and the actual decline in industry, which twice exceeds the estimates made at the budget formulation stage. The Economic Policy Committee chairman describes the volumes of recession themselves as an all-time record for Russia (25 percent in the first half) since the Civil War.

Glazyev believes that as a result of the current policy a real threat is emerging to Russia's economic sovereignty.

"Even if we decided that we do not need a science-intensive industry, the budget does not provide for any production mothballing funds anyway," Sergey Glazyev stated. This "oversight" in its turn leads to unprepared stoppages of enterprises, which increases the number of industrial accidents. There are still no changes in the investment sphere: equipment obsolescence is on average approximately 60 percent.

Sergey Glazyev supposes that "it is time to start closing the gaps." He drew the audience's attention to those expenditures on which he thinks financing should be increased (defense orders, communications, investment projects, education and culture) and also revenues raising, which could lead to problems. In particular this refers to revenues from the state property in state ownership, the abolition of concessions in foreign economic activity, and improving import control (Sergey Glazyev estimates the volume of smuggling, on which tariffs could be charged, at $5 billion). Also, taking a short-term view, the Duma economist proposed suspending the privatization of the Russian joint stock company Gazprom, whose annual revenues come to $7 billion.

Assessing the results of the voting on the draft budget in the first reading, Sergey Glazyev justly pointed to a lack of constructive opposition in parliament ("some pretend that they pursue liberalization, and others that they do not approve of this line"), which results in the invariability of the existing policy.

Glazyev's statement at the press conference was followed by a presentation from Veniamin Sokolov, author of an alternative draft budget. Mr. Sokolov expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the fall in the rate of inflation because each percentage point is paid for with 5 percent of production. Having made some reasonable propositions about the problems of monetary circulation in Russia, Veniamin Sokolov stated that he could ensure a doubling of budget revenues as early as the end of this year if a tax reform and a corresponding credit and money policy were conducted.

Agrarian Committee Head: Reforms May Cause Famine

LD1405190194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The head of a parliamentary committee said Russia's agrarian reforms are following "the wrong course" and might lead to famine.

"The electricity per worker ratio in the agrarian sector of Russia is less than one-tenth of that in Western Europe, while the low productivity is at present predetermining the depth of the abyss where the agrarian sector is quietly rolling," said Vyacheslav Zvolinskiy, chairman of the Agrarian Policy Committee of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament.

The "wrong course" for Russian agriculture has been charted not by science but by politicians, "who are carrying out their reforms, both in the countryside and elsewhere, at the expense of the people, above all the peasantry," Zvolinskiy, who is an agricultural scientist, said in an interview with Interfax on Saturday.

"What we are witnessing in Russia today is a struggle among foreign spheres of influence forced on the country by the world community," he continued. For this reason, the Agrarian Policy Committee is determined "to defend the interests of the Russian peasantry to the end" and do its best to have "the executive branch carry out unconditionally and as accurately as possible" Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha's April 27 directive on the agrarian reform.

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12 Dec Union Issues Statement on Budget

MK1405091094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 May 94 p 2

[Statement by Liberal Democratic Union of 12 December in the "Document" rubric, dated 12 May]

[Text] On 11 May, the Russian Federation State Duma passed in the first reading by a small majority of votes a draft federal budget for 1994 submitted by the government, and confirmed its main indicators: outlays, revenues, and the maximum level of budget deficit.

Our faction jointly spoke for passing this decision whereby it decided the outcome of the voting to a considerable extent.

We realize that the structure of the submitted draft budget only preserves the position that prevails today in the national economy, and suggests no radical changes in its sorry condition. Clearly insufficient funds are set aside for education and science, the outlays for the maintenance of the state apparatus are too high, and so on.

We are convinced that the size of the confirmed maximum level of budget deficit is on the verge of the so-called "controlled" inflation, whereas the amount of fiscal pressure allows for no invigoration of the economy whatever, suppresses private initiative, and prevents the possibility of creating new jobs on a large scale in conditions of growing unemployment.

We did realize, however, that all delays in the Duma's discussion of the draft budget would have led only to additional government concessions to various lobby groups and a further bloating of the size of the budget deficit, which would have triggered a sharp deepening of the economic crisis.

We realized that we could not have expected a better budget from the current Russian Federation Government (we could have expected a much worse one), and the finally passed draft still considerably limits the appetites of those agencies and sectors in the business of wasting the taxpayers' money, and puts the entire blame for the almost inevitable breaches of the confirmed budgetary indicators on the government. A nonacceptance of the budget would have amounted to raising the question of the government's resignation, something that is politically unrealistic today.

We see our decision as a show of political responsibility and we do not share the stance of some of the factions that voted against the passing of the budget for other, purely political reasons.

Duma To Monitor Treatment of Suspects

PM1605094994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 101-1 GD of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma "On the State Duma Commission For the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers," signed by I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, and dated Moscow, 26 April 1994]

[Text] The Russian Federation [RF] Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

1. The State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in RF MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers is hereby established.

2. The approved membership of the Commission is 16 State Duma deputies (Appendix 1).

3. The Statute on the State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in RF MVD Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers (Appendix 2) is approved.

4. The State Duma Committee for Security (V.I. Ilyukhin) is to provide assistance in the Commission's work.

5. The State Duma apparatus (A.I. Voykov) is to allocate the Commission the office equipment, premises, and transport needed for its work.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma.
[Dated] Moscow, 26 April 1994.

Appendix 1: Membership of the State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in RF MVD Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers [subhead]
1. Viktor Pimenovich Mironov—Commission chairman.
2. Valeriy Vasilyevich Borshchev—Commission deputy chairman.
3. Stanislav Sergeyevich Govorukhin.
4. Andrey Mikhaylovich Dorovskikh.
5. Aleksandr Dmitriyevich Zhukov.
6. Vyacheslav Vladimirovich Igrunov.
7. Yevgeniy Petrovich Ishchenko.
8. Vladimir Ivanovich Kosykh.
9. Aivars Janovich Lezdins.
10. Larisa Sergeyevna Maksakova.
11. Oleg Orestovich Mironov.
12. Vyacheslav Viktorovich Mikulin.
13. Mikhail Alekseyevich Putilov.
14. Vladimir Viktorovich Pchelkin.
15. Yuliy Andreyevich Rybakov.
16. Gleb Pavlovich Yakunin.

Appendix 2: Statute on the State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in RF MVD Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers

1. The State Duma Commission for the Investigation of Human Rights Violations Against Suspects and Persons Under Indictment Held in RF MVD Investigation and Temporary Detention Centers (hereinafter the Commission) is established by decree of the RF Federal Assembly State Duma in order to discover and investigate human rights violations against suspects and persons under indictment held in RF MVD investigation and temporary detention centers and also to take practical steps to suppress and prevent such violations.

2. The Commission comprises 16 RF Federal Assembly State Duma deputies. The membership of the Commission may be changed by decree of the State Duma.

3. The Commission is to pursue its activities through 1 January 1995. If necessary the Commission's term of activity may be changed by decree of the State Duma.

4. The Commission is set up with a chairman, a deputy, and other Commission members.

5. A Commission decision is adopted by majority vote of the Commission members present.

A Commission session is quorate if attended by over half the total number of Commission members.

State Duma deputies who are not members of the Commission may take part in Commission sessions with the right to a consultative vote.

Commission sessions are held when necessary, but no less than twice a month.

The date of a Commission session is fixed by the Commission chairman on his own initiative or at the request of at least half the members of the Commission.

6. Internal regulations are determined by the Commission autonomously.

7. The Commission is entitled to hold its sessions jointly with other State Duma committees and commissions.

8. The Commission cooperates with the RF MVD, the RF General Prosecutor's Office, the state power bodies in the components of the Russian Federation, and the RF presidential Human Rights Commission in the performance of its tasks.

9. The Commission is not entitled to interfere in the activity of judges or of inquiry and investigation bodies.

10. In order to perform its tasks the Commission:

publishes, summarizes, and analyzes documents and other materials pertaining to human rights violations against suspects or persons under indictment held in RF MVD investigation and temporary detention centers;

freely visits RF MVD investigation and temporary detention centers and requests and obtains from their administrations informational or other material needed for its work;

has the right to obtain statements pertaining to the conditions of their custody from suspects and persons under indictment held in RF MVD investigation and temporary detention centers.

11. Based on the results of its activity the Commission prepares and submits to parliamentary hearings in the State Duma as evidence material relating to known violations of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law as well as the human and civil rights and freedoms guaranteed by the RF Constitution with a view to taking practical steps to prevent violations of current legislation in this field.

12. In order to carry out the requisite appraisal and special studies the Commission can create interim working groups and also recruit independent experts in accordance with prescribed procedure.

Regional Affairs

Baltic Fleet Dismisses Reports of High Radiation Levels

WS1305115094 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Statement issued by the Baltic Sea Fleet Press Center in Kaliningrad; date not given]

[Text] On 29 March 1994, the Latvian newspaper DIENA—referring to an interview in the Estonian daily HOMMIKULEHT with Juri Pihl, director general of Estonia's security police—published an article entitled "Russian Officers Are Accused of Trading in Radioactive Substances."

The publication includes a number of statements which need to be clarified as follows.

First: In February 1993, the command of the Tallinn Naval Base, with the permission of higher authorities, concluded an agreement with the Estonian "Bankers" firm on the disposal of scrap metal from two decommissioned hovercraft minesweepers. The decommissioning was carried out over two months at a dock in Kopli harbor. Provisions of the agreement, including those concerning payment, were fulfilled by both sides. According to a representative of the user of these ships, there were no radioactive substances in the units or systems of the minesweepers. That is to say, information contained in the above-mentioned article concerning "components with radiation levels of 200 Roentgen per hour" does not correspond to the facts. The command of the Tallinn Naval Base has not received any complaints from any side with regard to this.

Second: A statement by the paper concerning a collection point for scrap metal, which was allegedly opened on the Naval Base under the authorization of the Tallinn garrison chief, does not correspond to the facts, as well.

Third: The publication points out that "the background radiation in the Mine Harbor exceeds natural radiation levels by 40 times." Obviously, this statement has its origin in the following real fact.

In March 1994, workers on two decommissioned minesweepers in the Mine Harbor of the Tallinn port unscreened remote-controlled pickup units with one radioactive "Cesium-137" unit in each. This caused a brief period of excess natural background radiation. On 22 March, the screens of the pickup units were reestablished; on 30 March, they were dismantled and stored in a special depository at the Paldiski garrison. The ensuing measurements, which were taken in the Mine Harbor by naval specialists along with representatives of the Estonian side, did not detect any excess levels of natural background radiation.

The distortion of real facts and the dissemination of corresponding "sensations," which take place in various

Latvian and Estonian media, do not assist in the normal, planned process of withdrawing Russian troops and naval forces from the territory of these republics.

[Signed] The Baltic Sea Fleet Press Center

Moscow Militia Force 'Illegal,' Suspect

PM1305161594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Kucherenko report: "Dangerous to Society! Moscow Mayor Forms 5,000-Strong Army. People's Militiamen or Stormtroopers?"]

[Text] The report of the formation of people's militias in the capital has provoked a contradictory reaction. Many people are at a loss as to exactly how to view this step by Yu. Luzhkov, the capital's mayor.

Judging by the Moscow government's decree of 19 April, something akin to an army is being formed, but without combat weapons. A blue uniform, bulletproof vests, helmets, handcuffs, and batons [sentence as published].

Detachments are to be deployed in each of the city's 133 administrative districts (prefectures). A distinction is being drawn between territorial and mobile forces (operational detachments), which could be attached to a city detachment.

E. Bakirov, vice premier in Luzhkov's government, has been made commander of the "blue army." The latter is also appointing the leadership of a city staff for the people's militiamen. The government is funding these forces through its own finance department, and the transport department is supplying them with automobiles and fuel.

Anyone who served in the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Internal Troops will see parallels when glancing at the statute on these formations. Personnel are paid for their service. They can check documents, detain people, and collaborate with Federal Counterintelligence Service forces, and they will be trained by specialists from the city staff for civil defense and emergency situations. They can be used in operations to maintain order. And, let us observe, the decree was even sent to the capital's military commandant for compliance. The numerical strength of the people's militias is being estimated at a minimum of 3,000 and a maximum of 5,000-6,000 men.

Of course, crime has to be combated and order maintained. But this must be done only according to the law. And there is no law on people's militias. Is the innovation by the capital's top brass consequently illegal? It turns out that it is in fact forming its own structure of repression which is subordinate to Luzhkov. (This is in addition to the forces of the Internal Affairs Main Administration and municipal militia, which are already subordinate to him). But if there are normative acts which regulate the activity of both militiamen and security firms' employees and which allow someone who has suffered at their hands to defend their rights in court, what is to be done here? After all, it is impossible to take to court a force which does not figure in the laws. This could lead to large-scale tyranny.

Generally there is no understanding of what a "people's militia" actually is. In the West there are people who voluntarily assist the police. But their function is to report disturbances by radio and telephone. Although they are paid, this is still a form of amateur civilian activity. But a de facto police body with the attributes of a standing army is being set up from the top in Moscow under City Hall and the prefectures. The Moscow government will maintain it and appoint and remove its command personnel. It is not a people's but a government militia!

Would it not be better if it were designed to protect the security of citizens and strengthen legal militia structures consisting of professionals, not amateurs?

Thus, the formation of the "blue army" in Moscow is illegal, a burden on the treasury, and senseless from the viewpoint of maintaining law and order. But it does strengthen the personal power of Mr. Luzhkov, who, as mayor and head of the city government, already manages the 9-million-strong city's land, buildings, property, budget, and tax service practically unchecked. He is just like the Prince of Moscow. Notwithstanding the fact that Russian laws do not contain the concepts of a "mayor," "prefect," or "head of the city government." This also violates the treaty on social accord, which prohibits the creation of militarized formations. The mayor has successfully gotten around this by using Khrushchev's old pretext of a "people's militia."

This is very reminiscent of the formation of Nazi stormtrooper detachments. And Napoleon III, in order to suppress the people, formed "garde mobile" detachments from declasse elements. Of the kind, let us observe, of which present-day Moscow is chock full, including people from the so-called "near abroad" countries. Apart from them, various political militants and criminal groupings currently masquerading as security firms are sure to rush in closed ranks into the power structure to which the city authority has given its blessing.

In general, there are grounds for concern. Security firms' employees have already been used in 1992 to evict residents of a block on Taganka when it was handed over to the "Khoreks [as transliterated] Center" joint enterprise, in which the city government has a share of the profits. The same year a federation of young law-enforcement clubs tried to seize the Oktyabrskiy Rayon Soviet building by agreement with the Central Administrative District prefect. Security firms have been used many times as "forceful arguments" in disputes over premises. What will the formation of "gardes mobiles" under the prefectures bring? In October 1992 similar internal affairs main administration forces cleared a block in Nagatino of the large families which were occupying it.

So it would be better if Mr. Luzhkov did not break the law. He has more than enough power as it is.

N. Ossetian President, Speaker Sign Appeal to People

LD1305191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 13 TASS—"The multinational people of the North Ossetian Republic cannot imagine its present and future outside Russia. Two hundred and twenty years ago our wise ancestors decided that their people will live within Russia," says an appeal to the North Ossetian people signed today by North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov and Parliament Speaker Yuriy Biragov on behalf of the North Ossetian Government and the Supreme Soviet.

The appeal lays down the basis to implement the Civic Accord Agreement signed in Moscow on April 28, 1994.

"Today we call on our compatriots to work together to achieve comprehensive accord and stop devastating processes in our multinational society, put Ossetia on the path of peace and creation, consolidation of unity and might of great Russia," says the document.

The president told the signing ceremony that the appeal is the first step to implement the Civic Accord idea in the multinational republic.

Mordovia Slow To Reform; Yeltsin Commission at Work

MK1305111094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Anatoliy Antonov report under the "Violations" rubric: "Mordovia Supreme Soviet Ignores President Yeltsin's Edict. Federal Commission at Work in Saransk"]

[Text] The Republic of Mordovia Supreme Soviet is dragging its feet on reforming organs of representative power in the republic in violation of President Boris Yeltsin's edict. In February 1994, the 17th session of the Supreme Soviet called elections for the State Assembly for 5 June, which is clearly beyond the president's deadline. The next session set 27 November as a new election date. Next the Supreme Soviet Presidium, clearly ignoring Boris Yeltsin's edict on reforming local self-government, passed a decision on resuming the operation of rayon and town Soviets of People's Deputies. Nor would Supreme Soviet deputies heed the opinion of the prosecutor's office and the government of the republic.

A commission set up by Boris Yeltsin's directive is currently working in Mordovia. It is composed of officers of the Main State Legal Administration and of the president's staff administration for work with territories, the Ministry for Nationalities Affairs, and the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission. Mr. Stepanov, Russian Federation deputy justice minister, has been appointed the commission's chairman. The commission is supposed to establish to what extent the legal acts passed by Mordovia's parliament correspond with the Russian Federation Constitution. The Commission has met with Supreme Soviet deputies, Mr. Guslyannikov and members of his former cabinet, heads of rayon administrations, leaders of parties and movements, and candidates nominated for Mordovia's State Assembly.

Tatar, Chuvash Presidents Sign Friendship Treaty

LD1405104594 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The presidents of Tatarstan and neighboring Chuvashia, both making part of the Russian Federation, signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation in Kazan on Friday. Tatar president, Mintimer Shaymiyev, said his republic had more than 100 Chuvash schools, a newspaper published in Chuvash and radio programs. Chuvashia claims similar conditions for ethnic Tatars.

Tatar Official Comments on Agreement With Chuvashia

LD1405192294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tatarstan is seeking to be the leader in Russia's regional policy, Tatar Vice-President Vasily Likhachev told Interfax. He said that the bilateral agreement on cooperation with neighboring Chuvashia signed in Kazan on May 13, the first after the signing of a treaty with Russia on division of powers, proves this aspiration of Tatarstan.

Likhachev said that both Chuvashia and Tatarstan thus state their serious intention to continue the process of internal reform in Russia "according to the will of peoples and from inside." He noted that "although it is a bilateral agreement, there is the third party—Russia."

According to Likhachev, the document signed in Kazan for the first time raises the problem of ensuring human rights regardless of nationality. Besides, the text includes an article taken from the practice of inter-government relations, i.e. the commitment of the sides to refrain from actions inflicting political, economic, ecological damage, etc. To each other." [quotation marks as received]

The Tatar-Chuvash agreement is unique because it enables the republic to grant legal aid to Tatar prisoners serving terms in Chuvashia, Likhachev added. He explained that under the treaty with the Russian Federation the Tatar president was given the right to mercy.

Ingush Aide Quits Parliament To Support President

MK1305130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric based on INTERFAX, RIA NOVOSTI, POSTFACTUM materials: "Nazran"]

[Text] Kazbek Kostoyev, former presidential adviser on youth affairs, has made an official statement saying that he can no longer stay in parliament, because, in his view, the legislature is "just yet another headache for President Ruslan Aushev." He also stressed that in a republic with a presidential form of government the parliament must coordinate all its actions with the president.

Chechen Foreign Minister Favors Yeltsin-Dudayev Summit

LD1305172694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] By decree of Chechen Prime Minister Mairbek Mugadayev, a government delegation was formed in Chechnya for talks with Moscow. The delegation was given the authority "to hold consultations with representatives of bodies of state power and the socio-political forces of the Russian Federation."

The delegation includes 13 people, whose posts fully correspond to the posts occupied by their colleagues in the Russian delegation, Interfax learned from the Chechen government. The Chechen delegation at the consultations will be led by one of the vice-premiers Musa Dashukayev.

In the meantime, Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef said at a meeting of the Chechen government on Thursday that "judging by actions of the Russian side, the only possibility remaining for settlement of the Russian-Chechen relations is a meeting between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev."

Official Reviews Economic Situation in Kaliningrad Oblast

WS1605081594 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 4 May 94 p 2

[Comments by V. Zakharov, chairman of the Economic Committee of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration; place and date not given: "Oblast Economy Is in Alarming Situation"—first two paragraphs are YANTARNYY KRAY introduction published in boldface]

[Text] **The results of the social and economic development of our oblast in the first quarter of 1994 have been summarized.**

We have asked V. Zakharov, chairman of the Economic Committee of the Kaliningrad Oblast Administration, to comment on those results and make a prognosis for the near future.

"Comparing the situation in our oblast with that of the northwestern region of Russia (Pskov, Novgorod, and Leningrad Oblasts), it is worth noting that we achieved better results in the production of consumer goods, in the volume of retail commodity circulation, in cargo shipments, and in the financial situation of enterprises. Also, Kaliningrad Oblast, in comparison with Russia as a whole and with the above-mentioned region, has a lower inflation rate. True, the situation in our agricultural sector is worse.

"It should be said straightforwardly—the social and economic situation in our oblast is complex, contradictory, and extremely unstable. In spite of this, we have been able to reduce the rate of consumer price increases from 15-16 percent, in the first quarter of 1993, to 10-12 percent in the first quarter of 1994. The production of sausage, cheese, whole-milk products, and margarine has also increased. Taking into account the cost of 19 basic foodstuffs in April, Kaliningrad occupies 69th place among over 120 Russian cities. Over 45,000 apartments were privatized by our residents. We have more than 700 joint ventures with a total capital of 6.5 million Russian rubles [R].

"Along with this, industrial production, as compared to that in the corresponding period of 1993, dropped 41 percent. The slump in the fuel industry amounted to 8 percent; the food industry—17; electricity production—22; building materials—47; pulp-and-paper industry—48; light industry—58; and machine-building—78. The smallest drop was registered in those branches which satisfy the needs for electricity, fuel, and food. The other branches of the national economy suffered an unprecedented drop in production.

"The main problems in industry and other branches of the national economy, as well as in the entire sphere of material production, are the following: a crisis in the realization of products, curtailment of manufacturing or undertaking activities, nonpayments, a high level of hidden unemployment, and inflation. The reduction of jobs should be specified separately. At certain enterprises, jobs were reduced by 22-43 percent. This refers especially to the machine-building sector. At the same time, the number of jobs increased at 'Kaliningradmorneftegas,' the 'Pregol' ship-repair yard, 'AGA-GAS' joint stock companies, and 'Yantarenergo.' Employment also increased at enterprises in the building, butter- and cheese-processing, milk-processing, and chemical industries. Thus, a tendency toward transferring labor from one enterprise to another has begun to show. Still—and I will repeat myself—the general situation in unemployment is very serious. At the current time, unemployment benefits are being paid to 6,500 people.

"An alarming situation can also be seen in the agricultural sector. The number of livestock decreased by 12 percent, the production of meat—by 22 percent. For example, in Krasnoznamensk and Chernyakhovsk rayons, the production of meat dropped by over 40 percent. Last year's level of production was only preserved in Gusev and Bagrationovsk rayons. The production of milk in the first quarter of 1994, as compared to that of the corresponding period last year, dropped by 24 percent. Difficult problems are also facing the 1994 harvest. As of the middle of April, it was necessary to sow over 100,000 hectares of farmland, including winter crops.

"Briefly about the financial situation of enterprises. The cost effectiveness in industry amounted only to 17.5 percent. Notwithstanding the fact that this index is higher than the average for Russia, enterprises—due to inflation—will fail to reach the break-even point. Their debt liabilities amount to R130 billion and in credits—R144 billion (as of 1 April). At the same time, various financial operations carried out by enterprises involve over R15 billion, which is not connected with basic production activities. As of 1 April, the debts of agricultural enterprises to banks amounted to R13 billion. At the same time, significant sums are owed to agricultural producers by the food-processing industry.

"Now, about the prognosis for the next three months and the half year as a whole. The main problems in the branches of material production will remain the same as before: sales, nonpayments, a high level of hidden unemployment, lack of turnover means, and halts in production at enterprises. Disruptions in paying wages and a growing tendency toward barter deals will follow. A fall in industrial production will continue. If the problem of nonpayments is resolved by some means, a certain surge in production may be expected. The volume of agricultural production will be around 10-15 percent lower than last year.

"The oblast budget will suffer with ever-increasing expenditures connected with the increase in enrollment of the housing sector as well as facilities of social and cultural sphere on the balance sheets of municipalities. Real incomes of the population, as it seems, will be reduced by 10-15 percent in comparison with the first quarter of 1994. A share of expenses for municipal services and foodstuffs will increase in the structure of consumption. An increase in consumer prices will continue. The inflation rate at the end of May and in June-July, in my opinion, will amount to 15-20 percent due to the lack of state credits and repayments of debts to the state. However, there is a danger in that. If the experience with the reckoning of nonpayments and currency emissions is to be repeated, the inflation rate in the third quarter may reach 45-50 percent.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Says Nuclear Disarmament Program on Schedule

LD1305130994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 13 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko, Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev May 13 TASS—The process of dismantling and pullout of nuclear warheads from Ukraine into Russia is under full control and goes ahead as scheduled. A total of 180 warheads had been removed from Ukraine to the Russian Federation by now, said Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in an interview with ITAR-TASS at an opening ceremony of the Kiev spring fair on Friday.

"It is no secret for anyone that combat nuclear missiles stationed on the Ukrainian territory were not under Ukraine's control since the 'nuclear button' was in Moscow. Besides, Ukraine never sought to take possession of such dangerous weapons," the Ukrainian president said. He confirmed Ukraine's intention to implement in full a tripartite agreement signed by the Russian, Ukrainian and the U.S. presidents at the beginning of 1994.

"We signed the agreement, hoping that other nuclear countries would take adequate measures and begin disarmament," Kravchuk said. He pointed out that according to information at his disposal the United States intends to make large-scale cuts of their nuclear arsenals, fulfilling agreements reached during the Moscow meeting.

He went on to say that by the end of May all American missiles targeted at Ukraine would be re-coded. "The time comes when our countries will really switch over from words of friendship and cooperation to concrete deeds," he said.

U.S. Missiles Not To Be Targeted at Ukraine

LD1405161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told Friday Ukrainian journalists that from the end of May US ballistic missiles would not be targeted at the republic. He said he obtained the information from U.S. officials.

Kravchuk said that for its part, Ukraine would also observe the three-partite statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States and Russia and continue deactivation of the strategic missiles situated on its territory.

Kravchuk said that all 46 SS-24 strategic missiles have been deactivated in Ukraine. All in all, there are 176 strategic missiles on the territory of the republic.

Kravchuk said that earlier Ukrainian warheads "were targeted at the United States, but we did not control them".

According to statements by the republic's leaders, Ukraine is unable technically to change the flight tasks for the missiles being deployed by Russia. But they could be launched from the territory of Ukraine only with consent of the republic's president.

According to US Ambassador in Kiev, William Green Miller, Ukrainian officials confirmed to him that all strategic missiles on the republic's territory are not targeted at the United States.

Ukrainian-U.S. Missile Agreement Viewed

LD1405182294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A ceremonial signing of a memorandum on mutual understanding between the governments of Ukraine and the United States of America about the transfer of missile equipment and technologies took place in the White House. Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov and U.S. Vice President Al Gore signed the document.

Proceeding from a common interest in maintaining and consolidating international peace and security, says the document, the governments of both countries are ready to jointly counteract the proliferation of missile equipment and technologies which could contribute to the elaboration of acquisition of missile systems for delivering mass annihilation weapons.

The memorandum envisages a package of measures aimed at strict control over the proliferation of missile technologies, the carrying out of joint inspections and consultations in this field, and exchange of relevant data in case missile equipment and technologies are transferred.

Meanwhile, the memorandum emphasizes that the regime of control over the missile technologies rules out the creation of obstacles in the way of creating Ukraine's national space program or its cooperation with other missile and space states in this sphere.

By signing this document the United States of America, as a matter of fact, recognized Ukraine's just interests in preserving and further promoting the scientific, technological and production capacity of Ukraine in the missile and space field. This agreement also means that Ukraine is recognized as an equal participant in international cooperation and a subject of the world aerospace market.

The second important result of the work done by the Ukrainian delegation, led by Valeriy Shmarov, in the U.S. capital was the adoption of a joint statement in which the governments of both countries reaffirm their loyalty to building relations of partnership, mutual trust and respect, and further developing new relations in the cause of security and defense.

Recognizing Ukraine's positive contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament, the specific steps toward deactivating missile installations in Ukraine and the implementation of the trilateral statement as a whole, the Government of the United States of America, in response, announced that after 30 May this year the U.S. strategic missiles will no longer be targeted at Ukraine.

This document also emphasizes that as from this date the U.S. missiles will not be targeted at the territories of other countries, which will testify to the lessening of nuclear threat in the world as a whole.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in the White House, U.S. Vice President Al Gore underlined that by its actions in many fields over the year Ukraine has proved that it is a reliable and responsible partner.

The adoption and signing of these important Ukrainian-American documents is yet another concrete step toward fulfilling the program of a broad development of bilateral relations signed by the presidents of Ukraine and the USA Leonid Kravchuk and Bill Clinton. An agreement was achieved on further contacts between both sides.

On behalf of the president and the government of our state Valeriy Shmarov invited the U.S. Vice President to visit Ukraine at a time convenient to him. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

Military Conversion Agreement Signed in Washington

LD1305164594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Washington, 13 May. An agreement in the sphere of military conversion was signed during the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov to the United States. US Defense Secretary William Perry described the document, which is first in the history of Kiev-Washington relations, as a historic one. The agreement foresees a joint venture between the American company Westinghouse and Khartron production association in Kharkov. The Ukrainian-American enterprise will develop and produce high technology control systems for all types of electric power stations.

Crimean Speaker Urges Unity With Russia

LD1305165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Simferopol, the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet Sergey [Serhiy] Tsekov refused to believe that the Ukrainian parliament would kill Crimean autonomy. Tsekov felt there were a sufficient number of sober-minded individuals among the Ukrainian lawmakers and they were knowledgeable about the Crimean problems. If, however, the Ukrainian parliament moved to kill Crimean autonomy, Tsekov said, the peninsula would break off all relations with Kiev. And moves to sever relations were not likely to be peaceful, he said.

According to Tsekov, Leonid Kravchuk could play up the Crimean problem to win support in Ukraine's western provinces.

First of all, Tsekov said, the Crimean parliament must concentrate efforts on independent statehood, and then—on the restoration of unity with Russia. That was what the lawmakers called for before they were elected, Tsekov said, and they had to meet their electoral pledges.

In Tsekov's view, the first thing the parliament must do, was to restore the Constitution of May 6, 1992 which said Crimea's relations with Ukraine were limited to the treaty on bilateral relations.

Next, Tsekov said, the peninsula's executive and legislative branches would have to send a joint mission to Kiev. The mission would try to convince the Ukrainian leaders of the need to address the Crimean problem.

According to Tsekov, the Constitution of May 6, 1992 could be restored in a matter of two weeks, after a discussion by parliament.

Tsekov said Crimea would first sign a treaty of economic union with Moscow, and treaties on a political and military union would soon follow one after the other.

A treaty on a military and political union could, however, be signed between Russia, on the one hand, and Crimea and Ukraine, on the other. In Tsekov's view, Kiev would sooner or later come to realize the necessity of building a union, if not a confederation or federation, with Russia.

The territorial integrity of the Republic of Crimea must be insured in the context of the Commonwealth's Collective Security Treaty but, Tsekov said, Crimea must have its own Guards.

Officials Interviewed on Black Sea Fleet

LD1305111194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan at 1600 GMT on 12 May, in its "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry, broadcasts a 12-minute segment on naval affairs devoted to the Black Sea Fleet. An unidentified reporter begins his report by saying that he has just returned from Sevastopol, where he saw no sign of "interethnic enmity" either among the inhabitants of the Crimea or between the sailors of the Ukrainian navy and the Black Sea Fleet. The Fleet issue has become a media football, he says, adding: "The politicians have decided that the Black Sea Fleet is a joint one."

But the sailors cannot understand this, he goes on. "The Fleet's traditions," the reporter notes, "like the pro-Russian leanings in the Crimea, seem to be stronger than political decisions. For the men of the Black Sea Fleet, and not only for them, it is clear today that the division of the Fleet will lead to its destruction. It is clear that the Ukraine cannot maintain the Fleet." There have been no new ships for years, he notes, and the youngest vessels are 17-18 years old. "The Black Sea Fleet is supplied by the Russian Ministry of Defence," the reporter concludes.

The next item in the Black Sea Fleet program concerns the patriotic uplift given to the sailors by such measures as the adoption of individual vessels by Russian cities and the consequent provision of apartments in those cities for the sailors. An unidentified reporter notes that both Russia and Ukraine have their own views on the Black Sea Fleet's future, but that the opinion of a third party, the Crimean Government, cannot be ignored. The reporter says that he met with Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Republic. "Our conversation followed a somewhat unexpected course," the reporter notes. "It seems that Yevgeniy Saburov regards the Black Sea Fleet as a factor in the Crimea's economic stability. Judge for yourselves."

The reporter then plays a recording of Saburov saying: "I was very happy about the decision that Russia has its own legal base for the Black Sea Fleet in accordance with all the agreements. That is a very good decision. It looks as though it really will be implemented. We have already become used to promises being given, treaties being signed, and then nothing being carried out. Let us hope that this time the decision will be implemented.

"Apart from that, I must say that a very big part here is played, in my opinion, not by the military aspect, but by the economic aspect. Who will be selling any written-off ships? Who will the rent be paid to? And the reluctance of the Ukrainian side to allow the Crimea into the talks on the subject really does suggest a mercenary interest in making use of the benefits of the Russian proposal. It is only the Ukrainian leadership that is not allowing the Crimea in.

"In fact, I can see a very large commercial interest here. It looks extremely unsavory, it must be said, and in a sense incomprehensible. The point is this: For example, if the Crimea received the rent, what would it do? It would be a completely legal matter, since Sevastopol's sewers, water supply and food supply...[Saburov pauses] This money would not go into anyone's pocket. It would benefit Sevastopol. It would remain on the spot. The decisions must be made to be economically justified and serve to benefit Sevastopol, the Fleet, and the families of the sailors who live there. Otherwise it will be spent on incomprehensible purposes and God knows where."

Speaking about the Black Sea Fleet becoming a joint possession of the Ukraine and Russia, Saburov says: "A joint fleet is out of the question. Of course, we dreamed of coming together and of integration. We thought that there would be close cooperation between the Slav states. But it isn't happening. As for a Ukrainian fleet, without looking at all the other aspects of the matter, I just think it is impossible for the Ukraine to maintain it. There's only one solution here: It must be a Russian fleet."

The reporter then asks Rear-Admiral Nikolay Kostrov, deputy commander of the Ukraine's Naval Forces, to explain his government's actions with regard to the Black Sea Fleet.

Kostrov says: "We must not take a narrow view of the problem; it needs a broader view. Either there are independent states or there aren't. If there aren't, then there is no problem. If they do actually exist, then one can talk about the subject of the Black Sea Fleet. If the Black Sea Fleet exists, then today it is legally and politically subordinate to two presidents."

The reporter says: Rear-Admiral Nikolay Kostrov also talked about the establishment of the Ukraine's naval forces and the problems of their structural organization."

Kostrov goes on to say: "Our naval forces don't come under any agreement at all, incidentally. The Defense Ministry passed nothing on about structures for the forces which have been formed in a vacuum. There were no structures. There were no ships. We accepted the ships that came, newly built, from the shipyards. We took on personnel that came from the Ukrainian state, and we slowly...[pauses] Russia, unfortunately, is not helping us and is trying to put pressure on us and to stop us from emerging, since we seem to be out of favor. There are many self-seeking things here which transcend the bounds of military concepts. There are many far-fetched political attributes that have been imposed on the Black Sea Fleet. It is a problem. It is all done artificially. Even at the latest meetings of the defense ministers—you know their outcome, a very sad outcome, unfortunately. But one cannot act in this way. We must respect one another as Slavs. If we have separated, then let us observe the sovereignty of Russia and the sovereignty of the Ukraine, and respect the armed forces of Russia and the armed forces of the Ukraine."

Kostrov continues: "I am Russian by nationality, although I ws born in the Ukraine. It is my home. I have no other home. Why must we now quarrel over nationality? We must draw closer together now. Since we have a real existence within the borders of sovereign states, we must respect those sovereignties. We must help one another rather than increase the front of confrontation."

The program concludes with a recapitulation of April's events in Odessa and hope is expressed that the differences between the two states will, in the future, be resolved peacefully.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Distrusts Latest Agreement

LD1305162994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Eduard Baltin, distrusts the latest agreements on dividing the Black Sea Fleet reached between Moscow and Kiev. "As its predecessor, the latest agreement will fail to work," he said in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

Furthermore, Baltin said he is puzzled by Ukraine's insistence that the two countries' fleets should share the same naval base in Sevastopol.

"This runs counter to common sense and has no precedent in international practice. Such a situation has already resulted in aggravating tensions between Russian and Ukrainian servicemen," the Black Sea Fleet commander said.

Some Ukrainian naval units stationed in the Crimea, he noted, have been disconnected from the Fleet's energy system. "The Ukrainian Navy's debt to the Fleet has reached 4.5 billion rubles. There are no political motives in this. Politics and economics must not be confused," the admiral stressed.

His fleet has no newly-built ships, Baltin complained. He deplored Ukraine's inability to finance the work of the shipyards in Nikolayev, and said he hopes that in the near future Russia will be able to provide his fleet with modern ships from Russian shipyards in the Baltic region and the Northern Fleet.

In answer to Interfax's question about the fleet's attitude to the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Baltin said: "He is a picturesque personality. From the point of view of humour he adds some color and animation to the work of the State Duma, but nothing more."

Closing Chernobyl Said To Need 10 Years, $6-8 Billion

LD1605100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0947 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev May 16 ITAR-TASS—Ukraine needs ten years and at least six to eight billion dollars to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valeriy Shmarov told a press conference here today.

He added that the final decision on the Chernobyl nuclear power station is expected to be made at the Group of Seven countries' summit this summer.

France, Russia Help Evacuate Ukrainians From Yemen

LD1305180294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow expressed gratitude to Russia and France for their active participation in the evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from Yemen. "The Russians and the French have done everything possible even risking their lives in order to ensure the security of civilians in the heart of the civil war in Yemen," the note of the Ukrainian Embassy underlined.

The Ukrainian Embassy to Russia announced that some Ukrainians had found a refuge on Russian trade boats and others on the French International Legion base in Djibouti.

On May 12 Ukrainian citizens arrived in Moscow by an special Aeroflot flight.

Military Exchange Agreement Signed With Hungary

LD1405204894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service reported that the delegation of the Hungarian Army, led by Miklos Csurgai, its anti-aircraft defense commander, has completed its visit to Ukraine. Together with his colleagues he visited several units and subunits of this service of our state's armed forces. Negotiations were held with the command of the anti-aircraft defense of the Ukrainian Army and a protocol was signed on the results. Agreements were reached on a regular exchange of experience and other trends of cooperation.

Statistics Ministry Reports on Foreign Investment

LD1405194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1540 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The total volume of foreign investments in the Ukrainian economy was 180.5 million U.S. dollars on April 1, 1994. The figure was reported to Interfax-Ukraine by the Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics.

In the first three months of the year investments grew by 66.7 million dollars. Most of them came from partners in Canada 33.7 percent, Germany 11.6 percent, the USA 11.1 percent, Cyprus and Switzerland 4.2 percent each, Britain and Poland 2.9 percent each.

Russian investments in the Ukrainian economy amount to 1.7 million U.S. dollars comprising 73.7 percent of investments from former Soviet republics.

On the same date Ukrainian investments in foreign companies, mostly in Europe, amounted to 3.9 million dollars (about 2 percent of the size of investments in the Ukrainian economy).

National Affairs

Kravchuk Assesses Presidential Election Chances

LD1305182994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk took part in a phone-in today for readers of the MOLOD

UKRAYINY youth newspaper. Answering a question from a UNIAN correspondent on whether the decision to run in the presidential election on 26 June is final, Leonid Kravchuk said: "I would like the Supreme Council to consider my appeal. If it postpones the election, I will withdraw my candidature; if the decision by the previous parliament remains in force, I will run in the presidential election."

"If the election, nonetheless, does take place, who of the other contenders for the post of president would you regard as a possible rival?", asked the UNIAN correspondent. Leonid Kravchuk replied: "It is difficult to say this. The main contenders, who have made a good showing and who have the appropriate image are Ivan Plyushch and Leonid Kuchma. I know that certain circles like young contenders Valeriy Babych and Volodymyr Lanovyy. Oleksandr Moroz and Petro Talanchuk are also taking an active part in the election. That is to say, I would not like to distinguish anyone—everyone has his chance and time will show who takes advantage of it."

Kravchuk Amends Decree on Reducing Money Supply

WS1305115294 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 19 , 2-7 May 94]

[Text] President Leonid M. Kravchuk signed a decree, which makes amendments to his June 12, 1993 Decree "On Measures To Reduce Cash Circulation".

Considering earlier amendments, which were made by his decrees of July 6, 1993, and October 22, 1993 the Decree's latest tenor looks like this.

With a view to normalize currency regulation and reduce money emission rates

1. All juridical persons in Ukraine, irrespective of their proprietorial form status and kinds of activities, as well as natural persons including Ukraine's citizens, foreigners and stateless persons, who are subject of business activities,

—should effect one-time settling among themselves for commodities, works, services and securities, the value of which exceeds six minimal wages, on a cash basis only. Banks are authorized to supply, within a calendar month, cash to enterprises, organizations and institutions, which employ up to 3,000 personnel, for their current needs, in amounts within fifteen minimal wages, and to those, which employ over 3,000 personnel, in amounts within thirty minimal wages. Cash, which is needed for service trips, is not included in the above current needs and is supplied by banks in accordance with the established order;

—should store cash at their counters within the established limits. Procedures for cash limits and control over their observance are determined by the National Bank of Ukraine;

—are entitled to keep at their cash counters sums in cash, which exceed the established limits, only for payments of wages, social welfare bonuses, stipends, pensions, and only for periods, not greater than three work-days, including the day of cash supply by banks.

Validity of paragraph 2 of this Article does not extend to settling by collective agricultural enterprises and farmers with trade organisations and institutions.

Provisions of paragraph 3 and 4 of this Article do not extend to natural persons, who are subjects of business activities.

2. Limits for cash balance for juridical persons should be set by commercial banks servicing them based on settling data submitted by them. In case of such settling data lacking, the said limits are set by commercial banks on their own. Commercial banks effect cash supply only on presenting to them relevant substantiation, and exercise control over cash application, as has been specified.

3. Juridical and natural persons, who are engaged in procurement of agricultural products, wild fruits and berries, herbs, waste paper and fabrics, glass containers and scrap from the population, as well as juridical persons, who carry out mortgage operations, are entitled to get cash to the full extent of their settling with the population.

Trucking and automotive delivery enterprises and organisations (which specialize in rendering transportation services), which are engaged in inter-regional carriage, are entitled to get cash to pay for fuels, which are purchased beyond the boundaries of their location regions.

Control over advance sum spending (payments for fuels) is exercised by the commercial banks.

Sums, which are due to citizens for products, which they sell, may be remitted to their savings accounts only of their own free will.

4. Banks should provide to juridical persons, who are engaged in insurance activities, means to pay insurance sums (insurance compensations) against insurance agreements of voluntary and compulsory insurance, on a non-cash basis, except:

—sums, payable to citizens in cash upon expiration of their insurance agreements or the agreements' preterm termination;

—compensations payable to citizens in the form of insurance sums and insurance indemnities.

5. Enterprises, institutions and organisations including those engaged in trade, which have permanent monetary

returns and which use them to pay wages, pensions and to purchase agricultural products, are entitled to retain cash at their cash counters for only three work days preceding payment terms without limitations on cash spending.

6. Control over observance of this Decree's provisions by juridical persons with the exception of commercial banks, and by natural persons, who are subjects of business activities, is exercised by the commercial banks, state taxation service bodies, bodies of the state auditing service and the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine.

7. Sales of manufactured goods to citizens by trading organisations and other enterprises and organisations, as well as settling with natural persons, who deliver for commission commodities (for units or batches, irrespective of their kind or denomination) in excess of 200 minimal wages, should be effected through Ukrainian banks' checks or through remittance of payment orders to the depositors' personal accounts.

Check issuance by banks and money transfer to the citizens' personal accounts in excess of the above stated amount of minimal wages, are effected free of charge.

8. State taxation inspection bodies, based on materials of their audits and documents, submitted to them by the commercial banks, state auditing service, Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, should impose financial sanctions, in the form of penalties in amounts of excessive settling operations or extra-limit cash sums at cash counters, on enterprises, institutions and organisations, which are guilty of non-observance of this Decree's provisions, irrespective of their proprietorial form and kind of activity, as well as on natural persons, who are subjects of business activities and who are guilty of similar offenses.

Liability for violation of requirements stated in paragraph 2 of Article 1 of this Decree involving exceeded sums of one-time settling is incurred on juridical and natural persons, who paid in cash.

In case of this Decree's violation by commercial banks, financial sanctions in the form of penalties are imposed on them at the National Bank's suggestion:

—for cash payment without due reasons, in amounts of sums unduly paid.

Penalties, provided for by this Article, are levied to the state budget as unappealable.

9. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine together with the National Bank of Ukraine should define procedures for implementing this Decree's provisions.

[signed] L. Kravchuk, President of Ukraine

[dated] Kiev, April 29, 1994

Kravchuk Visits Kiev Fair, Assesses Economic Situation

LD1305194594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Kiev—President Leonid Kravchuk today visited the "Kiev Spring Fair-94" exhibition, which opened at the Sports Palace. After Leonid Kravchuk had viewed the exhibits he answered journalists' questions.

Speaking about the new parliament, Leonid Kravchuk pointed out that it is too early to draw a conclusion that the parliament has become politicized, because its formation is still under way.

Assessing a possibility that the parliament will consider the law on the delimitation of functions between the president and the government, Leonid Kravchuk declared that the result of the work done by the initiative group is not yet the opinion of the parliament and the commissions. "Changing the Constitution is a problem, which should be coordinated with the executive bodies and the president. The situation with Crimea can serve as an example. In 1990 it was granted autonomy. However, there are no documents whatsoever that would regulate relations between Ukraine and the autonomy. Only in two years' has a document on the delimitation of their plenary powers been approved. Over this time Crimea has approved so many various decisions that now they must be brought in line with the Constitution of Crimea and the Constitution of Ukraine. We found ourselves in a difficult situation, failing to adopt in 1990 the documents on mutual relations between Ukraine and its autonomous part. If now, before the election of the president, we again have no documents determining relations between the center and the territories, the president and the executive structures, we will again find ourselves in a difficult situation. It is necessary to introduce amendments and additions to the Constitution immediately, and not to hold elections for the sake of elections. As far as the plenary powers of the president are concerned, the executive power should be in one pair of hands: If it is in the hands of the president, no premier is needed, then this is a presidential state and this will lead to changes in the Constitution and laws. If the plenary powers are vested in the Cabinet of Ministers, it is necessary to determine its status and the status of the president. There is no perpetual scheme in this situation and one should proceed from historic peculiarities.

Replying to a question from a UNIAN correspondent on his attitude to the stance taken by Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, Ukraine's acting prime minister, toward the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange, and on whether the ban on circulation of freely convertible currency in Ukraine's monetary market would lead to collapse, Leonid Kravchuk, noted: "This issue should be studied. Only one currency is in circulation in other countries of the world and there is no collapse. As regards misgivings concerning a lack of cash, calculations will be made with Ukraine's National Bank. In the world, "when a state is a state," it has one currency, and it has banks and bureaux de change, which can convert any currency "at a fair exchange rate" into the national one. When five or six currencies are in circulation in the country, you will not bring order to the currency system. One should not approach the issue of the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange in a simplistic way; one should take account of the current situation, all of the "pros" and "cons." I am convinced that if we introduce the hryvna in accordance with all the rules, all market and financial structures will be made to correspond to it, including the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange.

To a question about what to do to make Ukrainian goods appear in the shops, which have become known in the world market, Leonid Kravchuk noted in particular: "There are two problems: to earn money and to pay people for labor in accordance with the existing norms. The problem is not a lack of money, but the lack of a mechanism to restrain the money earned. There are people who receive unearned money and who buy products such as foreign-made cars, but those who work cannot receive money. We cannot increase pensions and wages on the basis of goods produced. We should enliven production, make profits and then increase social payments."

Kravchuk Views Issue of Crimean Tatars

LD1505141794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] "Crimean Tatars will have to go a long way to be formed as a people and as a state," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a solemn meeting dedicated to the fifty-year anniversary of the deportation of the Crimean-Tatar people in Kiev on Saturday [14 May].

He stressed that Ukraine had to face the problem of deported peoples alone, although the Ukrainian leadership had addressed the CIS states with a request to help it.

Kravchuk repeated that the CIS agreement on mutual assistance with settlement of problems concerning deported peoples signed in 1992 had not been ratified by the CIS parliaments and had never come into effect.

Kravchuk said that migration had become spontaneous. Displaced persons often find themselves in Ukraine with no means for living since they fail to sell their property for fair prices. He urged the Ukrainian parliament to adopt a law which will clearly define the status of deported peoples, including Crimean Tatars.

Deputy Chairman of the Crimean-Tatar parliament, Refat Chubarov, called on the Ukrainian leadership to address the UN in order to solve the problems of Crimean Tatars. He suggested the assistance on the part of the UN would also improve the situation in Crimea in general.

Chubarov pointed out that the issue could be resolved only through joint actions by the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities and the Crimean-Tatar parliament.

Currently, there are about 250,000 Crimean Tatars living in Crimea. In accordance with the quota given to them, Crimean Tatars have fourteen seats in the new Crimean parliament.

Defense Minister Denies Troop Build-Up in Crimea

LD1305165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX Friday [13 May], Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy rejected, in no uncertain terms, information on Ukrainian troop buildup on the Crimean Peninsula. Earlier, the Chairman of the Russian State Duma's Commission on Commonwealth Affairs Konstantin Zatulin said that Kiev sent mostly residents of its western provinces to serve in Crimea and that it had increased to 50,000 the strength of its Crimean contingent.

Radetskyy did not know where Zatulin found the figure and said residents of all provinces were sent to serve in Crimea.

According to Radetskyy, the Black Sea Fleet, police force, elite police units and paramilitary guards taken together would number 50,000.

Two New Factions, Presidium Formed in Crimea Parliament

MK1405124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Crimea"]

[Text] Two more deputy factions have been set up at the Crimea Supreme Soviet session. These are the "Reform" faction made up of 12 deputies under Vladimir Shevyev, cochairman of the Crimean Economic Revival Party, and the 10-seat Agrarian faction under Yuriy Velyukh, a well-known Crimean entrepreneur operating in the agro-industrial sector. It is expected that yet another faction—"Republic"—will be set up that will fully support the Crimean Tatar Assembly faction. According to observers, it may include some deputies from the "Russia" faction. The session has also elected chairmen of nine of the Crimea Supreme Soviet's 12 standing commissions and formed the parliament's Presidium made up of the Supreme Soviet chairman, his two deputies, and nine chairmen of Supreme Soviet standing commissions.

Half Crimea's Supreme Soviet Deputies Form 'Russia' Faction

MK1305123094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in "NEGA Reports" column: "Crimea"]

[Text] The current first session of Crimea's Supreme Soviet registered a "Russia" faction on 12 May. It comprises 47 deputies, exactly half the parliament. Far from all the deputies-members of the "Russia" election bloc, which numbers 155, joined the faction. In observers' estimates, the fact that the Supreme Soviet chairman and his lieutenants will be backing the faction, the deputies comprising it will be able to pass any decisions (with the exception of constitutional ones) ignoring the other parliamentarians' will. "Russia" is the second faction of Crimea's new parliament. The first to have been registered was the Crimea Tatar People's Assembly faction comprised of 14 deputies.

Constitution Amendments Must Be Coordinated With President

LD1305180594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] All proposals concerning amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution were only the results of the work of a deputy group, which must be coordinated with the executive power, including the president. This was stated by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev today when commenting on the draft amendments on the reduction of the president's powers.

Kravchuk stressed it was necessary to develop a clear legislative basis defining the powers of all state bodies. Kravchuk said that Crimea was an example of an unsettled legislative basis since Crimea had received the autonomy status in 1990 with no legislative acts regulating its relations with Ukraine.

Kravchuk said that after this Kiev had been placed in a very difficult situation and had to coordinate decisions on Crimean autonomy with the Ukrainian Constitution. "If we come to the elections with no documents defining the powers of those who will be elected we will be in the same situation as with Crimea," Kravchuk suggested.

He emphasized that the executive power must be in the hands of a single person. "If it is in the hands of the president the premier will be of no need. Then it will be a presidential state," Kravchuk stated.

He confirmed that he would take no moves if the Ukrainian parliament did not agree with the proposal to postpone presidential elections.

Answering a question of a reader of the Ukrainian Youth newspaper who had urged Kravchuk to force the parliament to put off presidential elections, Kravchuk said he could not act by force and violate laws. He suggested that to use force would mean to return to totalitarianism.

On relations with Moscow, Kravchuk said he was not afraid of Russia but would do everything so that "our children do not start fighting." Kravchuk believes that the Russian leadership supports the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Seven Contenders To Run for Ukrainian Presidency

LD1505163094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1440 GMT 15 May 94

[Video report by Natalya Kondratyuk]

[Excerpts] In the first week of its proceedings, the newly-elected 13th Ukrainian parliament tried to sort out organizational matters of its own work. [passage omitted]

The UNIAN agency reports that as of today seven contenders for Ukrainian presidency have collected the required number of signatures in their support and are now continuing their election campaigns. They are: Leonid Kravchuk; Leonid Kuchma, a former prime minister and cochairman of the interregional bloc for reforms; Ivan Plyushch, former speaker of the last parliament; Petro Talanchuk, Ukraine's education minister; Oleksandr Moroz, leader of the socialists; Volodymyr Lanovoy, market center; and Valeriy Babych, president of the Ukrainian financial group, at the age of 40 the youngest of the candidates. [passage omitted]

Kuchma Leads in Presidential Candidacy Race

LD1305165094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent today, District Electoral Commission Chairman Heorhiy Romanovskyy said preliminary data shows that of all the contenders for a Ukrainian presidential candidacy in Nikolayev oblast, former premier Leonid Kuchma has collected most signatures. There were 8,380 votes in his favor. He is followed by Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz, with 5,746 signatures, Education Minister Petro Talanchuk, with 4,963, President Leonid Kravchuk, with 4,011, former economy minister Volodymyr Lanovyy, with 2,690, and parliamentary speaker Ivan Plyushch, with 2,576.

Independent experts point out that the only surprise is the third result, that by Ukrainian Education Minister Petro Talanchuk. However, they explain it by the somewhat command-like manner of signature collection at Nikolayev's teachers' training institute, which the minister visited in April.

Article Warns of Fascist Party's Activities

AU1305113594 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 7 May 94 p 2

[Article by UNIAN correspondent Oleh Pokalchuk: "Extraordinary Fascism"]

[Text] When, in the summer of 1992, Lvov was literally covered with leaflets of Ukraine's Social Nationalist Party [SNPU], nobody attached any significance to its party emblem shaped like a stylized swastika: After all, following the 1991 putsch, people's anti-communist convictions were attributed to their progressive views.

The newly created party had at its core members of the organization "Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] Guards" [Varta Rukhu] who had been trained in martial arts by instructor and psychiatrist Yaroslav Andrushkiv, the future leader of the party. The "Varta" started its activities with guarding rallies and demonstrations as well as the most frowned-upon dissidents.

Then dissidents became deputies, and rallies ceased to be objects of provocations and, eventually, disappeared completely. The last straw that exhausted "Varta's" patience in its relations with Ukraine's People's Rukh [NRU] was the latter's refusal, during the 1991 putsch, to conduct mobilization measures for possible resistance. The "Varta" became an independent organization and assumed the image of the present UNSO [Ukraine's National Self- Defense]. However, it lacked an ideological foundation: Patriotism alone was no longer sufficient. A new and very dense political spectrum was taking shape at a very fast rate. There only remained space at the end of that spectrum.

The SNPU got the young peoples' confidence in October 1992, during the second picketing of the Supreme Council by students. At that time, the youth movement had already acquired structure: The Union of Ukrainian Youth [SUM], the Students' Brotherhood, the "Heritage" [Spadshchyna], and the scout organization "Layer" [Plast] had formed and actively functioned. There no longer remained sources from which the SNPU could recruit dynamic young people, as was the case of the aforementioned organizations.

Leaders of the SNPU started active work with members and leaders of those organizations and, as a result, the overwhelming majority of them joined the party, both officially and unofficially. The youth organizations, which had until then been liberal, became, as if by magic, the arena for internal discussions on the primacy of the national idea over everything else. The discussions paralyzed the activity of the organizations for one or more years, split them, or destroyed them.

However, centralized control is necessary, including control over the property of organizations. By that time, the aforementioned organizations (with the exception of the "Layer") had been united in the Lvov regional foundation "Young Ukraine" [Moloda Ukrayina]. In a short while, representative of the Social Nationalist Party for ideological issues Yuriy Kryvoruchko became chairman of the foundation's board.

After that, a new phase of development started: Almost the entire "Heritage" and one of the three local "Ukrainian Afghan War Veterans" organizations joined the Social Nationalists. However, some young people turned out to be lacking in nationalist consciousness and decided not to join the SNPU, for example, the SUM. Then the SUM was placed in such conditions when it either had to give up its premises or join the party. The SUM vacillated too long—it was simply ousted from the foundation. Then the Lion Society [Tovarystvo Leva] was also expelled.

However, attempts to encroach upon the newspaper POST POSTUP did not end successfully for the SNPU: It failed to take the newspaper under its control. Legally, the foundation still remains the founder of the newspaper. However, there also remains the most influential and prestigious organization Students' Brotherhood, which is also the most numerous one.

During the holding of the World Ukrainian Students Congress, the entire leadership of the SNPU and about a dozen party members arrived in Kiev, for the first time in their party uniform—black shirts and with metal emblems. The Latin—or Old Ukrainian—"N" is crossed vertically by the "I," which symbolizes the cornerstone of the party teachings—the "idea of the nation."

After a series of the president's incoherent political zigzags and the Massandra agreement, the SNPU decided to take over the struggle for Ukraine's salvation. At the invitation of the Social Nationalists, their proclaimed Committee for the Salvation of the Nation and the State was joined by ultra-right-wing organizations—with the exception of UNA [Ukrainian Nationalist Assembly]-UNSO, which the Social Nationalists did not risk to invite. The Lvov Students Brotherhood also decided to respond to the calls by the Salvation Committee and joined it.

Then some cells—the largest of them, the Students Brotherhood of the Lvov Polytechnic Institute—declared their separate opposition. Following that, the premises occupied by the Brotherhood at 12 Hlyboka Street were raided and the nonconformists were beaten up. Lvov deputy Parubiy, a member of the SNPU, sent away the militia detail that had been summoned. In his subsequent interviews, Yuriy Kryvoruchko stated that the SNPU had not been involved in the events at 12 Hlyboka Street. Such a way of resolving problems was also applied to other organizations.

Thus, a concise listing of the SNPU actions in Lvov looks as follows:

1. The report and election conference held by Rukh (in the Lort Palace): The interference by the SNPU members into the course of its work and the disruption of the

conference (threat of physical reprisals against Rukh members and the beating up of seven persons).

2. The Rukh conference at 13 Shevchenko Prospekt [Avenue]: The beating up of several Rukh members, a reporter, and the municipal militia by the SNPU members.

3. The beating up by the SNPU members of Myroslav Soldat (chairman of the SUM) and Andriy Sokolov (deputy chairman of the SUM), as well as of several other SUM members. The SUM was physically evicted from the building at 23 Shevchenko Prospekt.

4. The beating up of several members of the "Lion Society" and the physical eviction of the organization from the building at 23 Shevchenko Prospekt.

5. The beating up by the SNPU members of an official of the "Fund for Social Adaptation of Young People," subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers, and the eviction of the organization from the building at 23 Shevchenko Prospekt.

6. Actions by members of the SNPU (approximately 30 persons altogether) in the building of the Lvov Oblast Organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party (there were threats to hang O. Pavlyshyn [Republican Party activist] and to shoot M. Horyn [chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party]).

7. Pressure upon Lvov's mayor Mr. Shpitser (at the City Council and at home).

8. On 8 October 1993, the attack by 40 members and supporters of the SNPU on the office of the state university "Lvov Polytechnic" Students' Brotherhood members, who were among organizers of the well-known students' hunger strike in 1990—Andriy Salyuk, Ihor Slipetskyy, and Andrian Klishch....

It is of interest that, during the election campaign, the SNPU claimed credit for holding the students' hunger strike and the students' movement in general. This gave rise to written protests by true participants in the first picketing of the Supreme Council building that were not given much publicity in the press.

During the first round of elections to the Supreme Council, Lvov not only abounded in hook-shaped "ideas of the nation," but also in long [fascist] occupation-style banners. Credit must be given to the party organizers of the election campaign—from the psychological point of view, the propaganda was very skillful and used a broad range of measures—from demonstrating unity with Academician Yukhnovskyy to threats of physical reprisals against participants in the nonaligned bloc "New Wave" [Nova Khvylya] and their supporters.

It was precisely the intensity of the psychological brainwashing of the population that resulted in an opposite reaction. The number of swastikas seems to have gone beyond the critical borderline, and Lvov residents became concerned. The SNPU candidates, who had been nominated at all electoral districts, got negligible numbers of votes, not higher than 5 percent. However, it does not by any means follow from this that Ukrainian fascism has no future. If we make a comparison with Russia, then the SNPU is the early stage of "Pamyat" [a Russian fascist organization] under the leadership of a somewhat forgotten Russian fuehrer Vasilyev: Black uniforms, military bearing, anti-Semitism, and a mixture of Christianity and paganism. Then, the events in the SNPU must logically develop in the direction of its internal split and further evolution—toward legal discussions (this may be exemplified by a quite frank article published by Anatoliy Shcherbatyuk [convicted for the dissemination of interethnic hostility] in which the author calls for the creation of detachments to carry out Ukraine's ethnic cleansing) and toward creating an underground similar to Barkashov's [leader of Russian fascists].

The unique "Ukrainian" feature of the above phenomenon lies in the fact that Nazis throughout the world select Jews, immigrants, or ethnic minorities as targets for demonstrating their patriotism, whereas the patriotism of the SNPU began to manifest itself through beating up Ukrainians. "Bad taste"—this is how Andriy Shkil, one of the leaders of UNA-UNSO qualified the beating up of students by the "Nazis" at Hlyboka Street.

Sleep quietly, Ukrainian citizens! The dissociation of the state information area is so great that you will never find out about any unpleasant events in an adjacent oblast, provided that these events rate as less serious than the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The Ukrainian liberators of eastern Ukraine and of the Crimea from Communists and Muscovites prefer doing so largely in Galicia. Despite the fact that in neighboring Volyn, the people who opted for socialism led Communists to the second round of parliamentary elections and that in neighboring Transcarpathia, the word "Ukraine" will soon be associated with abroad. It is not without the help of the SNPU that scared stiff the Lvov residents that Communist Holub got 8 percent of votes.

Sleep and rest assured that the psychiatrists from the SNPU can cure you from the chimera called conscience.

Presidential Decree Liberalizes Export Policies

WS1305114794 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 19, 2-7 May 94]

[Excerpt] On Thursday, 5 May, President Kravchuk signed a decree, which liberalizes Ukraine's export procedures with a view of expanding exports of Ukrainian commodities and thus spur foreign currency incomings.

The decree specifies, in particular, that a list of commodities is approved, for which quota and license issuance regulations are nullified in 1994, as well as that license issuance procedures are no more applicable to commodities, not covered by the quota regulations.

The decree specifies that exports of coal, ammonia, ethylene, benzene, methanol, mineral fertilizers and ferrous metals are effected following the established procedures without specifically authorized subjects of foreign economic activities.

The Cabinet of Ministers is instructed to determine, on a quarterly basis, amounts of export quotas for the above listed commodities to be realized at auctions by the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations.

The Cabinet is further instructed to draft, within a month's term, and submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine a law on necessary amendments to Cabinet decrees, which regulate exports of commodities and services, and to adjust, within a fortnight's term, its own resolutions to this decree.

The institute of "special exporters" was set up by the Cabinet's resolution of 22 December 1993 allegedly with a view to make more orderly Ukraine's exports and pursue unified and CIS-co-ordinated pricing-export policies, as well as to ensure a more regular flow of hard currency to the state budget.

The Cabinet resolution approved a list of organisations and agencies, which were thus authorized to act as Ukraine's exporters of certain commodities.

On 5 March and 26 April 1994 the list was substantially complemented.

According to Valentin Kulichenko, deputy minister for industry, these "special exporters" charged from 0.5 to 5 per cent of the contract-specified amounts of export proceeds. As Mr. Kulichenko maintains, all the "special exporters" transferred their currency accounts to the Ukrainian Export-Import Bank by the first quarter's close.

Meanwhile, as observers believe, the Decree was issued under pressure brought to bear by certain commercial (that is, nongovernment-owned) structures, which used to deal in metals, other raw materials and products before the special exporter institute was introduced.

So, formally from now on, any juridical person, who possesses enough means, may buy export quotas at auctions held by the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations. However, as experts maintain, quota acquisition is not at all tantamount to a quota's factual application, since certain structures are obviously in a very good position to block the quota application process.

Besides, according to information furnished by the Industry Ministry, last year, none of Ukraine's exporter-manufacturers were able to fully realize their quotas. In particular, about 10 million tons of metals failed to be exported under the issued quotas.

Thus, as analysts insist, Ukraine's export quota market is doomed to remain shared among the very same old and long-established influential groups. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Supreme Council Session Held

PM1305112394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 2

[Report by Leonid Kapelyushnyy: "Ukrainian Supreme Council in Addition to 124 Important Issues Will Examine a Paramount, 125th Issue: Electing a Speaker"]

[Text] Kiev—Before electing a speaker the Ukrainian parliamentarians have decided to instruct a provisional working presidium of five people to hold the first session.

Their candidacies have been discussed in the factions and in a certain sense they reflected the parliament's multilevel composition. And complex composition. When the five sat down at the table the auditorium guffawed loudly—the central seat was taken by Vasil Durdinets, who heads the centrists' faction. To the right was Aleksandr Moroz, leader of the socialists and a presidential candidate. On the left was Vitaliy Masol, first premier of the independent Ukraine, who was "swallowed up" by the students' hunger strike. To his left was Petr Simonenko, leader of the Ukrainian Communists, who gained 86 seats out of 350 in the parliament and represent the most powerful faction. And next to them was Vyacheslav Chornovil, the eternal opposition member and romantic knight of anticommunism. The People's Rukh which he heads received about 30 seats and in the present situation could seriously influence the adoption of important decisions.

The word faction is a new one in the Ukrainian dictionary of party work. The old Supreme Rada was quite homogenous. At the new elections the candidates ran not on party lists but under party slogans and now in the first hours of its work the session has raised the tough question of identifying allegiances.

The more than 100 deputies who are reluctant to join anyone and, like Kipling's cat, prefer to "walk by themselves" are of some inconvenience to the members of all five factions. Without particularly consulting with them they are trying to unite them into a mixed group whose status and rights are not completely clear to anyone.

One of the most curious documents in the first package of documents proposed to the deputies is the guideline list of the most important issues for examination at the first session. There are 124 of them. They include acute, socially painful questions of privatization, price formation, the use of nuclear energy and radiation energy, the credit and monetary system, and others. The rayon to which the village of Shumlyany in Ternopol Oblast will belong is probably also a very important question for the village's inhabitants but without curbing corruption and crime, without checking inflation and creating an effective system for all branches of power, Ukraine will simply cease to exist as an independent state.

The 124 questions include a report by Leonid Kravchuk on the political and socioeconomic situation, a Ukrainian Government report, the formation of the government, and many other truly fateful questions. Like, for instance, the point on additions to the law on the demarcation of powers between the organs of state power of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea, they contain only a hint of their acute nature. Yet the Crimean pickets arrived before anyone at the Mariyinskyy Palace and were the last to leave. But in contrast to the Sevastopol inhabitants with their red flags and portraits of Lenin and Stalin, to whom we are accustomed, these stood with yellow and blue banners and demanded that the Ukrainian Parliament protect Crimea's Ukrainian population from psychological terrorism. The demand of a deputation of Crimean public and political organizations that the question of the situation in Crimea be included on the agenda for the first session was distributed among the deputies and journalists. Otherwise, the petition-bearers threaten, they are prepared to declare a long-term hunger strike in front of the Supreme Council, to appeal to the world public and Ukrainian people for support, to urge the people to civil disobedience, and to create in Crimea an alternative representative organ of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, claiming that all responsibility "for the further development of events in Crimea will rest with the Ukrainian Supreme Council."

The deputies' outward lack of haste and boring meticulousness on questions of standing orders and procedural details are not concealing the tension behind the scenes. One of the main issues of the first session is the election of a chairman and his deputies. In the opinion of analysts Aleksandr Moroz, Vasil Durdinets, and Ivan Plyushch, who is still in the shadows, have the greatest chances of becoming speaker. The very important question of holding presidential and local council elections or, as Leonid Kravchuk insists, of putting them off until later, is also so far outside the picture.

Issue of Two Deputies' Powers Still on Parliament's Agenda

LD1305101494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—At the Ukrainian Supreme Council's afternoon plenary sitting yesterday, it was decided that as deputies had not been sufficiently informed about their powers they should settle the issue of their labor relations with the Supreme Council and resign from any previously held office by 1 July. A total of 22 people's deputies, representing various political forces, suggested that a resolution should be considered with regard to recognizing the powers of People's Deputies Volodymyr Hrynyov and Pavlo Kudyukin. The draft resolution made provision for "additionally verifying the presence of grounds for the elections in their constituencies to be deemed invalid, and only then passing a decision on the interim credentials commission's submission."

This resolution was voted down by a majority, with as few as 100 of the 338 deputies present having voted for it. Representatives of the Interregional Bloc of Reforms [MBR] proposed that a special deputies' commission should be formed to deal with this issue. That proposal, however, was rejected, too.

The sitting also examined the draft resolution "On deputies groups (factions) in the Supreme Council of Ukraine." Most criticized were the articles on the numerical strength of groups, the provision of them with technical means [to organize] their work, the institution of groups (factions) on a regional or territorial basis, and the possibility for a deputy to work in several groups (factions). This resolution is to be adopted today after the proposals are generalized.

It has already been reported that MBR cochairmen Leonid Kuchma and Volodymyr Hrynyov are to hold a news conference at 1400 today. The venue is the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, 36 Khreshchatyk, Kiev.

Ministry Reports on Economic Situation for 1st Quarter

WS1305124194 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1934 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 19, 2-7 May 94]

[Text]

Industry

The Ukrainian Ministry of Statistics made public its data about the national economy's status in the first quarter of 1994.

According to the ministry's report, Ukraine's production slump accelerated with GNP having dropped by 34 per cent and national income by 36 per cent versus the first quarter of 1993.

Ukraine's industrial production was particularly hard hit by the economic crisis with industrial output having reduced by 38 per cent and labor productivity by 32 per cent, as compared with the same period of 1993. Over three thirds of Ukraine's industrial enterprises reduced their output.

Ukraine's famous metallurgy, chemical, petrochemical, oil refining, light, pulp and papermaking industries are listed among those hit worst of all by the crisis.

Production of basic fuel amounted to 27.3 million tons of the so-called conditional fuel in 1994's 1st quarter, which was by 4.3 million tons, or 14 per cent, less than a year ago. Primary crude petroleum treatment halved with resultant drastic curtailment of automotive gasoline, diesel fuel and oil fuel production.

Production drops affected the bulk of products, manufactured by the chemical and petrochemical industries, such as mineral fertilizers, automobile and truck tires, synthetic resins and plastics.

The timber industry's curtailed production resulted in a fivefold reduction in pulp, paper, and cardboard manufacture.

Agriculture

The vernal sowing campaign is underway across Ukraine. As of early May, collective and state farms sowed spring crops to cover 10 million ha [hectares], which was an increase by 64.5 per cent versus the same date in 1993.

1,145,900 ha were sown with white beet, 592,300 ha with sunflower and 73,800 ha with potato seeds.

The situation in Ukraine's animal husbandry remained complicated, though early and promising stabilization trends appeared. Livestock's productivity and fodder supply somewhat improved. Thus, averaged per cow milk yield was 424 kg versus 413 kg in 1993's 1st quarter. However, meat production in slaughter weight dropped by almost a third, same as egg production (by 21 per cent).

Ukraine's livestock and poultry capita reduced by 11 per cent.

Construction

Ukraine's housing, industrial and societal construction decelerated, too. Total dwelling area construction amounted to 967,000 sq. m., which a reduction by 46 per cent versus 1993's 1st quarter.

Carriage

Industrial and agricultural production curtailment, ruptured economic bonds with partner enterprises in "near abroad" nations, widespread non-compliance with obligations and chronic, acute fuel shortages could not but have a most adverse effect on the Ukrainian transport's performance with its aggregate cargo haul having dropped from 336 million tons in 1993's 1st quarter to 206 million tons this year. Cargo carriage by rail reduced by 35 per cent.

Trucking reduced by over two times (52 million tons of freightage were carried).

Marine shipment appeared less affected having hauled a total of 6.3 million tons of freightage, which was a meager 8 per cent drop versus the year before.

A total of 1.1 b. [billion] passengers were carried by rail, which was an 18 per cent reduction.

Finances and Prices

Disbalanced finances were an important aspect of Ukraine's total economic crisis. The state budget's deficit reached 8.6 trillion krb. [karbovantses]. Monetary emission totalled 10.8 trillion krb. in the first quarter of 1994, which was 36 times the 1993 figure.

Happily enough, inflation rates decelerated from month to month with January's rate of 119 per cent, February's rate of 112.6 per cent and March's rate of 105.7 per cent.

Overall price growths in the first quarter of 1994 averaged 1.4 times versus 2.7 times in 1993's 1st quarter. It should be noted that averaged food price growths were not as great as those for manufactured goods and paid services. The latter category's price growths were twofold, as compared with food prices.

Prices for meat, butter, eggs, citrus fruits even lowered, though other fruits and vegetables became even more expensive.

Children's wear, footwear, books, newspapers, pharmaceuticals and office equipment were particularly affected by price hikes.

Transportation services topped the list of most price-hike-affected paid services, primarily due to significantly raised prices for passenger carriage by rail and air (by 2.8 times), followed by health resort and recreational services and barber and beauty parlor services.

As of early January, Ukraine's unemployment rate averaged 0.29 per cent of the able-bodied adult population.

Relief per jobless individual averaged 169,000 krb. in March versus 100,000 krb. in January.

Ukraine's population was estimated at 52.1 million, as of 1 April 1994. The number of deaths exceeded that of births by 75,000 in the first quarter.

Consumer Goods Production

Consumer goods production reduced by 39 per cent to total 55 trillion krb., of which over 45 per cent were contributed by enterprises under the State Committee for food industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs, which were followed by enterprises under the State Committee for light and textile industries (almost 20 per cent of the sum total).

Enterprises' Debt for Gas Exceeds 14.5 Trillion Karbovantsi

LD1405202394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] On 14 May a conference on issues of settling accounts for natural gas was held at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers under the chairmanship of Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy. The conference was attended by Ukraine's Deputy

Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk and leaders of a number of ministries and departments.

It was pointed out at the conference that the indebtedness of enterprises and organizations for gas by 12 May this year reached over 14.5 trillion karbovantsi. This is leading to the growth of Ukraine's indebtedness to Russia's GazProm [gas industry] and is fraught with a stoppage of the natural gas deliveries from Russia.

The main debtors are the enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Ministry of Power Engineering, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Machine-Building, the State Committee for Housing and Utilities, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

In connection with this, the domestic gas and transport gas subunits of DerzhKomNaftoHaz [state oil and gas committee] were instructed to stop gas deliveries to the consumers should they fail to pay for gas in advance or fail to pay out their debts in good time. The cases against persistent defaulters will be passed to the court of arbitration.

At the same time, the ministries and departments have to pay off their debts in compliance with the the worked out schedules and take measures to save energy resources.

Belarus

Prime Minister To Announce Foreign Trade Policy Review

LD1305173794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has announced he will call for a review of the country's foreign trade policy shortly.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax, Kebich made it clear that his cabinet did not like the situation in which "major western powers are granting Belarus paltry quotas" for the sale of Belarusian goods in the West, especially textiles, which were used widely there, and potassium produced in the republic.

The premier said that those commodities were of good quality and highly competitive on the world market, a fact proven by the fact that the quotas for Belarusian cloth and fertilizers for sale in the West would be used up as early as May.

IF Note: In April this year, a Belarusian governmental delegation headed by Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Mechislav Hryb visited Strasbourg in France to try to resolve the problem in hand at consultations with a deputies from the European Parliament. During the talks the Belarusian delegation received pledges of tangible assistance in raising quotas for textiles and potassium salts.

Kebich stressed: "If the West does not allow Belarus on to its markets, why, then, should Belarus ignore the fact that leading European firms are selling their cars, confectionery, radios, beer and spirits, cigarettes and other commodities without restriction in Belarus and without quotas being issued by ourselves?" The premier was certain that "some products, for example those manufactured by the Minsk Kommunarka confectioners, are far superior in quality to their western counterparts which are currently flooding the Belarussian markets."

Kebich commented that "the problem with finding sales outlets exists for practically all CIS states besides Belarus. Therefore, it would be a good feasible to resolve these matters together." He said he intended to submit the relevant proposal to all other CIS prime ministers at their very next summit.

Merger Agreement Said Implemented, Influence Economy Soon

WS1605101094 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1230 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Uladzimir Zamyatalin, Belarusian prime minister's press secretary, stated that "... implementing an agreement on economic and monetary union between Belarus and Russia is already under way." The implementation mechanism of the agreement's first nine items, signed by Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Saskavets on 30 April has, as a matter of fact, come into force. It provides, the press secretary underlined, for removal of customs duties on all types of Belarusian-Russian goods that represent more than 30 percent of their costs. Uladzimir Zamyatalin noted that Belarusian products will become competitive on the Russian and CIS markets if their costs are reduced by one-third. As early as May and June, orders received by enterprises and sale of products that jammed warehouses will tangibly influence the Belarusian economy. "According to commitments stemming from the agreement," the press secretary said, "the Republic will soon receive from the Russian side 200 billion rubles in credits to stabilize the Belarusian financial system, as well as to level out prices and the average salary. With the first part of the signed agreement taking effect, the Belarusian Government can start improving a program designed to stabilize the national economy in 1994-95, and undertake a range of social protection measures. In particular, the decision allowing pensioners to ride suburban trains free of charge is a part of those measures."

Democrats Declare Collecting Signatures Being 'Impeded'

WS1605101794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Over 100,000 Signatures Were Collected in Support of S. Shushkevich"]

[Text] An initiative group supporting Stanislaw Shushkevich has collected over 100,000 signatures. This was declared by Henadz Shcharbinin, chief of the group for collecting signatures, at a news conference on 13 May. The 100,000th signature was placed by Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich. Hence, the initiative group for support of S. Shushkevich has cleared the hurdle set by the law on presidential elections. According to Aleh Trusaw, chairman of the Belarusian Social Democratic Association, specific difficulties have arisen recently when signature lists had to be registered at the executive committees: Most of these administration bodies worked according to their usual schedule—with a break for lunch—making it very inconvenient for collectors of signatures who had to leave work to register the signature lists. In Byalynichi, Stolbtsy, for example, officers of executive councils would unexpectedly leave their offices. Collection of signatures was impeded in various ways: There were cases where authorities broke up picket lines of collectors of signatures in Minsk and Gomel. Usually collectors were not allowed to enter garrisons. The initiative group reported all these facts to the Central Election Commission for Presidential Elections.

Henadz Shcharbinin added that already a few days before 15 May, regional election commissions began checking petitions supporting Kebich. When they discovered violations of legislation, they corrected petitions according to the law. Henadz Shcharbinin demonstrated some petitions in support of Kebich, on which one person signed for several people, which is a serious violation of the law on elections.

Moldova

Snegur Hopes for Expansion of Foreign Trade

LD1305151994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1701 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 12 May—Moldavia [Moldova] will be able to restore its economy, retrieve its former positions, and gain a foothold on the huge Eastern market through the creation of a single economic space of the CIS countries, which will function without administrative and economic difficulties. This was stated today by President Mircea Snegur at his meeting with Christoph Parisini, Austrian ambassador to Moldavia.

Joining the CIS and the Economic Union is a natural necessity for the republic's economy, which is closely connected with the economies of the Commonwealth countries, Mircea Snegur stressed. In his words, Moldavia plans to make its goods competitive by modernizing its industry, including the processing industry, with the help of Western firms.

Mircea Snegur said that after conducting the first democratic elections and the sociological poll on independence, the socio-political situation in Moldavia gives rise to optimism. The well-balanced stand of the parliamentary majority creates prerequisites for settling the Gagauz and Dniester problems.

In the president's opinion, the decentralization of power by way of granting a special legal status to the left-bank regions is a sensible compromise.

Snegur, U.S. Offical Discuss Russian Army, Gagauz Republic

LD1305184194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] "A Russian military base by no means can be set up on the territory of Moldova. Such allegations are a falsification by mass media," President Mircea Snegur said at a meeting with the U.S. deputy state secretary, chief coordinator of the State Department for the CIS James Collins in Kishinev [Chisinau].

Snegur acknowledged that the synchronization of the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from Moldova with giving the Transdniestria a special legal status "is yet a subject for discussions with the Russian side." At the same time, Snegur pointed out that he categorically objects to such an approach.

Collins praised "the fact of common vision by the Moldovan leadership of the ways to settle the problems of Transdniestria and villages populated by Gagauzes."

As an official representative of the Gagauz administration told INTERFAX, representatives of Gagauzes and the Moldovan leadership are expected to sign a conciliatory protocol in Komrat (the center of the self-proclaimed Gagauz republic) on Saturday [14 May]. The same source said that if by that time the existing differences are not eliminated, the sides will wait for the conclusions of the European Council regarding the draft law on the status of Gagauzia. During last week's visit by the European Council delegation to Moldova the draft law was handed by representatives of Gagauzes to this international organization for studying and making a conclusion. IF Note: On Thursday the Moldovan parliamentary commission on defining the special legal status for regions populated by Gagauzes met in Kishinev. A delegation of the Gagauz parliament led by Vice- President of the non-recognized Gagauz republic Petr Buzadzhi took part in its work. The Gagauz leaders stated their readiness for certain compromises, but they continue to insist that the law should determine the status of Gagauzia as a national-territorial state unit with its own constitution.

Kazakhstan

Tereshenko to Visit Iran 14 May for Oil, Trade Talks

LD1305172294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] During a two-day visit of Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshenko to Iran starting on 14 May, discussions will focus on cooperation in reprocessing and transportation of Kazakh oil through the Caspian Sea to the northern ports of Iran and the possibility of shipping an adequate amount of oil from its terminals in the Persian Gulf in return for Kazakh exports. This was said to INTERFAX by Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Gizatov.

According to Gizatov, the discussions will also concern "specific plans of funding the construction of a plant for the production of machine oils in Atyrau, former Guryev, located on the northern coast of the Caspian Sea."

Gizatov noted that Iran is interested in imports of Kazakh grain, meat, coal and iron ore pellets. Kazakhstan in turn is willing to increase imports of consumer goods from Iran.

Tereshenko will discuss with the Iranian side the practical aspect of supplies to be carried out through the Caspian Sea. According to Gizzatov, it is expected that agreements be signed on coast trade, creation of a joint trade/commerce chamber, and easier procedures for mutual business trips.

Tereschenko-Led Delegation Arrives in Tehran

LD1405105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0852 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 14 May—The main points on the agenda of the talks that will be held by Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, who arrived in the Iranian capital this morning on an official three-day visit, will be questions of commercial and economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iran. He is accompanied by a delegation that includes the ministers of power engineering and fuel resources, transport, the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the central bank, and parliamentarians. It is intended that the Kazakhstani prime minister will be received by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Speaking on his arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, S.Tereshchenko stressed that "very close and friendly relations" exist between Kazakhstan and Iran. He noted that a number of basic documents on bilateral cooperation were signed during the visits by the presidents of Kazakhstan and Iran to Tehran and Almaty. Therefore, the main aim of the present visit is to step up the work to implement the agreements that have been reached already and to remove all obstacles in the way of stepping up commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who met Tereshchenko, confirmed that the talks would focus on stepping up the implementation of agreements signed earlier by the two presidents, as well as on other accords.

Government To Lease Air Defense Test Ground to Russia

LD1305190294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Kazakhstan is poised to lease Russia facilities on the air defense test ground in Sary-Shagan (situated on Lake Balkhash in Central Kazakhstan), Kazakh Vice-Premier and Minister for Science and New Technology Galym Abilsiitov told INTERFAX Friday [13 May].

He said the documents discussed during talks on the lease agreement in the town of Priozyorsk (where the test ground's personnel live) from 10-13 May were not yet finalized, but the main requirements and terms of the lease had already been established. Abilsiitov said that some of the site's facilities would be leased to the Russian military unit running the site, and that unit would pay rent and make some contribution to the upkeep of Priozyorsk.

He also said that the dates and size of the rent and compensation for damage had not been discussed with the site's commander General Anatoliy Tarasov. The vice-premier said that those issues would be dealt with in Almaty with Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Air Defense Forces General-Lieutenant Viktor Prudnikov.

Abilsiitov said the lease agreement for Sary-Shagan would differ from the one for Baykonur in that Priozyorsk would remain a fully Kazakh town. A national center for radio-electronics and communications, he said, was currently being set up there, and the ore mining company Balkhash would also finish building an enrichment center and begin to refine gold ores there in July.

Abilsiitov pointed out that those organizations would, jointly with the Russian servicemen, be responsible for the town's well-being.

Industrial Enterprises Enduring Financial Difficulties

LD1605102494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0800 GMT 16 May 94

[Summary] Enterprises in Pavlodar oblast are running into financial difficulties. This year in January, February, and March, 11 percent of enterprises have been at a standstill; 44 percent had to reduce the assets' part of their balances, and 10 percent have not received any profit at all. Settlement of payments between the enterprises is next to impossible.

Tajikistan

More Nationals Return From Afghanistan

LD1305102494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Another group of our countrymen has crossed the Afghan-Tajik border. This is one of the largest groups, consisting of 423 people. They were mainly residents of Khatlon Oblast.

According to information from the Ministry for Labor and Employment, more than 19,000 of our countrymen have returned from Afghanistan to Khatlon Oblast alone.

Clearing-Up Operation Reported on Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1305163594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] According to the press-service of the Russian border troops, action was taken on 12 May to clear the rear of forts 12 and 13 of the Moskovskiy border guard unit of opposition militants, as well as discover and destroy arms caches in that area.

A total of 700 men, including troops of Tajikistan's Defense and Security Ministries and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are engaged in the mopping-up operation which will take several days. They use armor and artillery guns and are supported from the air.

According to the press-service, Russian border patrols came under fire from positions in both Afghanistan and Tajikistan more than 90 times this year. The outpost Navranga at the meeting point of forts 12 and 13 came under fire more often than others. One border guard was killed and several—wounded.

All in all, more than 500 charges for recoilless guns and grenade-launchers, 130 rockets and 60 anti-tank mines were discovered in caches near Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan this year.

Opposition Rejects Moscow Statement, Calls for Truce

MK1305115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 94 p 4

[Report by Mekhman Gafarly in the "Documents" column: "Tajik Opposition Is Unhappy With Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry Statement. But Is Ready To Consider a Draft Temporary Cease-Fire Agreement"]

[Text] A recent statement made by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs following aggravation in the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has caused discontent in Tajik opposition circles. The statement said that the "leadership of a number of intransigent opposition groupings affiliated with the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement [TIRM] is getting ready to launch a spring-summer 'onslaught' which is planned to begin with armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border. In these circumstances the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs deems it necessary to state that the Russian leadership regards the planned armed provocations as a threat to the interests of security not only of Tajikistan but also Russia ... and it... will take adequate steps to stop them."

On 11 May the TIRM came out with a response statement which says, "We have fought for our civil rights, for the possibility freely to live and work in our motherland, and we shall continue to fight for this.... We have nothing against the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces present in Tajikistan to protect the republic against foreign intervention. But they, under the treaty, must not interfere in the internal Tajik conflict."

The document also notes, "...the statement by the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which Russia's foreign policy department... threatens to take 'adequate' measures arouses bewilderment. ...Neither Afghanistan nor any other country is going to threaten the security of Tajikistan or other CIS countries. We, the citizens of Tajikistan, temporarily staying outside the Republic, including in Afghanistan, want to return to our Motherland," while "the real threat to security... are those forces that prevent a peaceful settlement of the conflict," the authors of the document point out.

Nonetheless the TIRM declares its readiness to consider a draft temporary cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan border and to observe the terms of the agreement after it has been signed.

The statement stresses that in the course of inter-Tajik negotiations in Moscow in April the opposition delegation proposed a draft temporary cease-fire agreement but "the other side did not want to discuss it, which testifies to the destructive position of the Dushanbe regime."

Alimov Says Leadership Wants Peaceful Solution to 'Strife'

LD1305172894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 13 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] "Rumors that the Tajik leadership is disinterested in finding a peaceful solution to the internal political strife and wants to increase Russian military presence to crush the opposition are groundless," Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov told INTERFAX. He said that Dushanbe had "sufficient good will to continue the dialog."

Alimov believes that the "current state of the internal dialog gives inspires a cautious optimism." He said the main thing was that the "negotiations process has been launched and the parties involved have agreed to further peace talks."

"We want to elevate the talks to a constructive plane and put an end to confrontation," Alimov stressed. He said the next round of talks between the Tajik and opposition leaders might even take place in Dushanbe in the first 10 days of June. UN representatives, he added, would decide on the final date and venue. IF Note: The UN secretary general's special representative for Tajikistan Ramires Piriz-Bollon is currently in Teheran, from where he will travel to Islamabad and then Dushanbe on 25-27 May. He will be accompanied to the Tajik capital by the UN deputy general secretary for political affairs, Marek Goulding. The date and venue of the next round of Tajik internal talks is for those officials to decide.

Meanwhile, the Tajik Islamic Renaissance Movement issued a statement a few days ago on its readiness to consider a draft cease-fire agreement for the Tajik-Afghan border and observe its terms, if signed. The people behind the document recall that the opposition delegation at the peace talks in Moscow in April had proposed a cease-fire draft but that "the other side refused even to discuss its contents, demonstrating the Dushanbe regime's destructive position." IF Note: A joint communique on the talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Tajik leader Emomali Rahmonov contained support for the Tajik leadership's stance regarding the continuation of dialog with the aim of building a democratic Tajikistan. For that, firm commitment to the mutual cessation of hostilities, measures to restore and fortify mutual trust and the unhindered and safe return of refugees and forced migrants to the Republic were needed, the communique stated.

The statement mentioned that the Tajik opposition posed no threat to Tajikistan itself, Russia or other CIS states. "We are citizens of Tajikistan finding ourselves temporarily outside the Republic's frontiers and want to return to our homeland and live in our own homes," it read.

"Those forces which would obstruct the peaceful settlement of the conflict pose the real threat to the security of Tajikistan and other countries," the statement's authors said. The document also pointed out that the opposition was looking for a political way to end the conflict: "We have no objection to the presence of CIS Collective Peace-Keeping forces in Tajikistan to protect the country from inroads from outside." IF Note: In their communique, Yeltsin and Rahmonov highlighted the stabilizing role of the CIS forces in Tajikistan. "The joint efforts to provide reliable protection and defense for the southern borders, especially the Tajik-Afghan section, meet the interests of all CIS countries," the communique read.

"Our campaign is not directed against any state and in no way does it threaten the security interests of Russia or any other CIS country. This is a conflict between the Tajik opposition and a close circle of individuals who forced us to leave our homeland," the Islamic Renaissance Movement's statement stressed.

Reports of Tajik National Currency 'Untrue'

LD1305135894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The question of the Republic fully joining the ruble zone was one of the important issues discussed during [recent] talks between the leaders of Tajikistan and Russia.

Abdujalil Samadov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, together with a group of experts, is now preparing the relevant documents in this regard in Moscow.

However, reports on [Russian] central television allegedly say that Tajikistan is introducing its own national currency. These rumors are untrue.

Large-Scale Antinarcotics Operation Launched

LD1605103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 16 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 16 May TASS—Special units of Tajikistan's Interior Ministry and the country's special services are mounting a large-scale operation "Mak-94" (Poppy-94) to locate and eliminate plantations of opium poppy and hemp, an uphill job because most of the plantations, some of which cover tens of hectares, are located in the mountainous regions of northern and eastern Tajikistan, difficult-of-access. This was announced in an interview with ITAR-TASS by First Deputy Interior Minister of Tajikistan, Major-General Gennadiy Blinov.

He explained that the owners of such plantations are, as a rule, were alarmed and often have tested ties with local authorities. [as received]

The wave of drug-trafficking and drug abuse continues to sweep Tajikistan, which has become a major base from which narcotics are delivered to near abroad and Western Europe, Gennadiy Blinov said. He stressed that practically one half of crimes committed in the republic is associated with the narco-business.

Since the beginning of this year, Tajikistan's security forces have suppressed 19 attempts at illegal exports of unprocessed opium and hashish and located tens of underground syndicates specialising in manufacturing and storing narcotics, the general said. A total of 200 kg of drugs have been seized.

However according to General Blinov, the main flow of drugs comes from neighbouring Afghanistan to Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, where several drug barons run mafia-like groups. According to Gennadiy Blinov, the drug flow from Afghanistan can be suppressed by tightening control over the Pamir stretch of the Tajik-Afghan border, which regrettably remains highly transparent.

For a number of reasons only between 15 and 20 in each hundred of crimes associated with narcotics are ever exposed, the general said. He called for a comprehensive state programme and concerted efforts of the security agencies of all Commonwealth member-countries, whose ties have weakened considerably since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Turkmenistan

Presidential Press Service Denies Niyazov Health Problem

PM1305184394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 May 94 p 8

[Unattributed response to reader's query: "Turkmenbashi's Health Is OK"]

[Text] "I have heard that Saparmurat Niyazov does not feel too well after the operation performed on him in the States. Is this so?" (N. Akhmedov, Alma-Ata [Almaty])

President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan is healthy and "does not require additional treatment," the head of state's press service has reported. Rumors of the president's supposedly unsatisfactory state of health and that he is preparing to depart for treatment in the United States are "groundless."

At the beginning of February 1994, S. Niyazov underwent an operation on the blood vessels of his legs in Houston (United States). According to physicians, his condition at the present time is satisfactory: The blood circulation has been fully restored, and arterial pressure has normalized.

President Niyazov Issues Decree on Privatization

LD1405195394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1141 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by correspondent ITAR-TASS Oleg Lukin]

[Text] Ashgabat, 14 May—The privatization of trade outlets and industrial sites will begin in Turkmenistan on 1 June. This is stipulated in a resolution signed by Saparmurad Niyazov on 13 May. The privatization of trade outlets will be carried out through auctions, tenders, and sales. Retail trade outlets selling consumer goods will be privatized in the first instance.

The authorities in the capital and oblasts have been given personal responsibility to ensure that newly privatized outlets function effectively, while staying in the same line of business.

Small industrial enterprises employing up to 100 people will be bought by members of working collectives, and will also be sold to citizens of Turkmenistan and foreigners. Private individuals and foreign firms will have to take part in investment tenders and later ensure their own supplies of raw materials. Enterprises employing more than 100 people will be transformed into joint-stock companies with the controlling packet of shares being retained by the government.

The president's resolution envisages subsidies for working collectives during the destatification of their enterprises. In particular, employees will receive some shares free of charge, while state property will be sold to them with a 25 percent price reduction with up to one year credit facility.

Income gained from privatization will be channelled to the central government budget.

Niyazov Outlines Economic Development Program

LD1305171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The parliament and the Popular Council (the supreme representative body) of Turkmenistan held a joint meeting in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] on 13 May in which Saparmurad Niyazov made public his program of developing the Republic's economy in 1994-96 and for the period until 2002.

According to the program, the priority tasks are the economic idependence of the state, in the first place, in the food sphere, the restructuring of the economy, the stabilization and strengthening of the national currency—the manat, further development of market relations and entrepreneurship.

In particular, it is planeed to increase the GDP up to 50 billion manats within the next three years—by 45.3-percent more than in 1993. Oil extraction is to be raised up to 9 million tonnes also in three year's time, gas—to 90 billion cubic meters over the same period.

U.S. Firm To be Denied Participation in Oil Project

LD1305163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 13 May 94

[Textt] Turkmenistan will most likely deny Occidental Petroleum participation in a project to develop one of the Central Asian republic's oil and gas fields, said a senior official at Turkmenistan's Petroleum and Gas Ministry.

The refusal would come very shortly, the official told the Oil Information Agency.

He said the American corporation, which had won the right to work the Burun oil and gas field in western Turkmenistan in an international tender last November, was, under the terms of the tender, to form a joint venture with the Turkmen concern Balkanneftekhimprom, but had still not signed an agreement to that effect, "from time to time notifying its Turkmen partner about the dwindling interest in oil in the world market and about the difficulties of transportation of crude oil from Turkmenistan," while not having withdrawn from the project officially.

For this reason, Turkmenistan will most likely choose another foreign partner. A source told the Oil Information Agency that after preliminary negotiations, the Turkish national petroleum company had stated its willingness to form a project to develop the Burun and Barsa-Gelmez oil and gas deposits.

Turkmenistan is expected to make the final decision before the end of May. The Turkish company would be offered the same terms as Occidental Petroleum, namely it would have to pay a $20-million bonus, invest $50 million in the project within the next five years and receive 25 pct of the profit, the Turkmen partner appropriating the other 75 pct.

The reserves of Burun are estimated at 35 million tonnes of oil, those of Barsa-Gelmez at 31 million tonnes. Today the two fields annually yield 207,000 tonnes and 1.2 million tonnes of oil respectively.

Uzbekistan

President Karimov Begins Official Visit to Japan

LD1605042094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0346 GMT 16 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent 16 May—Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov began his first official state visit to Japan on Monday [16 May]. On the eve of the visit Karimov told journalists that long ago the great silk road, which connected the east with the west, established the first links between the ancient Uzbek state and Japan. Now life itself prompts to the two nations to strengthen their ties and give them a more substantive development.

During the visit of the head of the Uzbek state to Japan, he will hold talks with Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and will be received by Emperor Akihito. The two countries are expected to sign a number of intergovernmental agreements in several fields of bilateral cooperation.

Visit Aimed at Aid, Investments

LD1605075894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0738 GMT 16 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo 16 May TASS—Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov comes to Tokyo in the hope of restoring ancient links with Japan, which originated at the time of the Great Silk Road, which connected the East with the West. President Karimov has taken with him to Japan more than ten projects of bilateral cooperation designed to lay the groundwork for new economic relations between the two countries.

President Karimov is accompanied on the trip by Deputy Prime Minister Otkir Sultanov and Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Saidkasymov.

Under the Japanese diplomatic classification, the Uzbek president's visit falls under the heading of "official business" visits, and therefore the head of Uzbek state will be accommodated in a hotel and not in the official residence for top guests of the state. But this will not affect the level of reception in any other way. Karimov will hold talks with Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on 19 May and will be received by Emperor Akihito. He will meet representatives of the Japanese business community.

The two countries are expected to sign a joint document, although Tokyo, pressed for time, has been unable to prepare specific proposals for economic assistance to Tashkent.

Karimov is due to spend the last part of his visit in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto, the "finishing point" of the Great Silk Road, which linked Europe with the Far East via Central Asia. The museums and temples of this ancient city keep exhibits which were brought by the merchants and pilgrims from what is now Uzbekistan more than 1500 years ago.

The main objective of the visit is of course to establish business links and attract Japanese capital and investments. Last year, the volume of trade between the two countries amounted to a mere $30 million, mainly from trade in Uzbek cotton and natural gas in exchange for Japanese computers and equipment. Islam Karimov told journalists ahead of the visit that Tashkent has prepared at least a dozen projects aimed at expanding cooperation including in the field of ecological normalisation of the Aral Sea and the improvement of water supplies. Certain funds will be allocated for the purpose along the line of the Japanese governmental assistance to developing countries.

Prospects for major private investments are less promising since Uzbekistan has not yet become a promising market for the Japanese companies, according to Japan's Charge d'Affaires Kozi Hino. The Japanese diplomat pointed to Uzbekistan's high taxes on foreign businesses and the absence of effective joint enterprises in Uzbekistan as the main obstacles. Business links are further impeded by the fact that Tashkent, unlike Alma Ata [Almaty], has not yet signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund which conditions the signing on the introduction of tough restrictions on budget spending in Uzbekistan and a tougher control over the currency and financial system.

Islam Karimov has already told Japanese journalists that he sees the building of an oil and gas pipelines across Kazakhstan and China to the Pacific coast as a priority in cooperation with Tokyo. Other plans include the building of a railway to China via Urumqi, and the building of a highway and a railway from Uzbekistan via Afghanistan to Pakistan's port of Karachi. Most of these initiatives appear romantic enough, but Tokyo does not conceal its interest in the gradual expansion of contacts with Uzbekistan, taking into account its important strategic location in Central Asia, which, according to Kozi Hino, Japan cannot ignore in the context of its continuating territorial dispute with Russia.

Armenia

Trade Minister Arrested After Caught Accepting Bribe

LD1405033194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Armenian Trade Minister Eduardi Grigoryan has been arrested in his office by Ministry of the Interior staff. He was caught red-handed receiving a bribe of $2,500.

Minister Released, Investigation Continues

NC1405132494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0708 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 05/14/94—RA [Republic of Armenia] Procurator General Artavazd Gevorgyan declared yesterday during the Supreme Council Board meeting, he didn't issue an order for the arrest of the RA Minister of Trade Tigran Grigoryan, and this action was made without sanctions of the procurator. He also reported, all those, who captured the Minister of Trade by artificial actions, must be punished. Though the investigation by the Ministry of the Interior still continues, the Procurator General issued an order to release Mr. Grigoryan.

Minister of Trade's assistant Mr. Hovanisyan confirmed the declaration of the Procurator General and said, Mr. Grigoryan was released yesterday by 1200 and is currently in his home. Hovanisian rejected the allegations of Grigoryan having committed suicide and said, Mr. Grigoryan feels well.

Azerbaijani Moves, Orders for 'Non-Azeri Units' Viewed

NC1305110294 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0810 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR", "AZG" dailies), 05/13/94—Having signed the cease-fire agreement, Azerbaijan continues carrying military operations in the zone of Karabakh conflict.

The Azeri Armed Forces attempted to break the Karabakh defense positions in the Agdamskiy District at 0700 early in the morning of 12 May. The Azeris involved 500 infantry, four T-72 tanks and three personnel carriers, attacking in the direction of the village of Hovsepavan (Yusifdzhanli). According to the RMK Defense Army Headquarters, the enemy was forced to retreat with great manpower and equipment losses. According to preliminary information, 35 Azeri soldiers were killed, eight Karabakh fighters injured.

No significant changes of the front line were registered by 1700. Only positional shellings were reported.

Battles at the northern section of the front continue too. The Azeri troops commenced several offensives in the Mardakertskiy District, particularly in the direction of the village of Leninavan. The enemy offensive was successfully repulsed.

The RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] military reconnaissance reports significant concentration of the Azeri forces at the north of the Mardakertskiy District, particularly in the environs of the villages of Talysh and Seisulan.

At the same time the Azeri Defense Ministry reports, the Armenian units commenced an extensive offensive in the direction of the Azeri positions in the Mardakertskiy and Agdamskiy Districts.

An Azeri prisoner Melik Yakhiaev of Ujan district reported, the Azeri command issued a secret order to establish a special control over non-Azeri units fighting at the front, particularly over Lezgins and Avars. Most worries are caused by Avar units in the Belokan and Zakatala districts [last three placenames as received], who have to fight in the most dangerous sections of the front. "Jimahagh" ("People") National Liberation Movement of Avars is becoming very popular in the mentioned districts. "Jimahagh"s goal is to join the Zakatala and Belokan district to Dagestan.

Azerbaijani Fighting on Border Violates Cease-Fire

NC1305201894 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Although Azerbaijan signed the agreement for a cease-fire, it has violated the agreement several times. The NKR Defense Army Headquarters Press Service has informed us that fighting continued yesterday in Agdamskiy and Mardakertskiy Rayons. Azerbaijan's military forces tried to penetrate the NKR defense positions to reach Yusifdzhanly in Agdamskiy Rayon; however, the defense units counterattacked. The enemy forces lost several men and were forced to retreat to their former positions.

The NKR military subunits have succeeded in obstructing several attacks in the northern and northeastern part of Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijan Military Command Headquarters is trying to amass several units in those areas at the present time.

Azerbaijan's military units fired on Vartashen in Martuninskiy Rayon with Grad rocket launchers the night before last night. Initial reports said two women were killed and 10 residents were wounded. The attack also caused material damage.

No incidents have taken place in the border region between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the past few days. [passage omitted]

However, the Armenian Ministry of Defense Press Center has disclosed that the military units in Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] violated the cease-fire agreement in the northeastern and southeastern sectors of Armenia's border last night. Azerbaijan's units in Kyzylgadzhyly in Kazakhskiy Rayon fired on [place name indistinct] and Bekaber in Idzhevanskiy Rayon with mortars, tanks, and machine guns from 1920 to 2300 last night. The enemy units in the NAR fired on [place name indistinct] in Sisianskiy Rayon with machine guns from 2230 to 0100. Several people were wounded in the attack. Our border guards remained committed to the cease-fire agreement and refrained from launching retaliatory operations.

The same source disclosed that no other incidents occurred in the border region between last night and this morning.

Attacks Continue Despite Cease-Fire

NC1405121094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0708 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR", "AZG" dailies), 05/14/94 —Tension at the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] fronts persists. In spite of the new cease fire agreement, the Azeri units continue the attacks at the northern and eastern sections of the front.

The RMK Defense Army headquarters report, military operations in the environs of the village of Yusifdzhanli in the Agdamskiy District continued in the evening of 12 May. The Azeri units attacked the Armenian defense positions, but were forced to retreat to the initial positions. About 50 Azeri soldiers were killed.

The RMK armed forces repulsed the Azeri offensive in the Seisulan-Karmiravan section in the Mardakertskiy District. According to the RMK reconnaissance, the enemy continues concentrating new forces in this direction.

The enemy shelled the village of Berdavan in the Martuninskiy District in the evening of 12 May, using "Grad" installations stationed in the Agdamskiy and Agdzhabediskiy districts. According to preliminary information, two women were killed, more than 10 peaceful inhabitants injured. Significant property damage is reported.

The situation was rather calm on 13 May, only positional shellings are reported.

An RMK Defense Army representative Serge Arushanyan said the Azeri side is violating the new cease-fire agreement, and thus challenging not only Karabakh but also Russia and CSCE, attempting to fail their efforts on peaceful regulation of the conflict.

Shelling Reported on Border With Nakhichevan

NC1405122094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0708 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 05/14/94—Defense Ministry press center reports, the Azeri and Nakhichevan's armed forces restarted shelling north-eastern and south-western borders of the Republic of Armenia in the evening of 12 May.

Starting from 1930 and till 2300 the enemy units stationed in the Ghzl Haj military base in the Kazakh district shelled, using mortars, tanks and machine guns, the Armenian defense positions at the villages of Sarigyugh and Berkaber in the Idzhevanskiy District. No casualties are reported.

A machine gun fire, lasting from 2230 till 0100 was opened from Nakhichevan in the direction of the Armenian defense positions at the village of Shaghat in the Sisianskiy District.

The Armenian frontier forces obeyed the cease-fire and refrained from returning the fire in both cases.

Conflict Areas on Border, Nagorno-Karabakh Reported Quiet

LD1405123094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 14 May TASS—Relative calm prevailed in the Karabakh conflict zone last night and Saturday [14 May] morning. No combat actions were reported along the entire front line as of 1100 on Saturday, Nagorno-Karabakh information and press department told ITAR-TASS referencing reports of the Karabakh Army press service.

Nonetheless, sources in Stepanakert reported that Karabakh positions were under fire in the Mardakert district of Karabakh.

Stepanakert is looking forward to the arrival of Chairman of the CSCE's Minsk group for Nagorno-Karabakh Jan Eliasson and the Russian president's special representative Vladimir Kazimirov.

The situation is likewise quiet on the Armenian border, where no incidents have been registered lately, ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of the Armenian Defence Ministry.

Russian Envoy Visits Baku, Yerevan

NC1405133894 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0708 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR", "AZG", "HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" dailies), 05/13/94—Russian President's Special Envoy Kazimirov visited Baku, presented the Russian project of resolving the Karabakh conflict and met the journalists. The meeting was probably organized in order to respond to the Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov's criticism regarding the new Russian project.

Gasanov disagreed with the Russian plan saying that after its implementation Azerbaijan will loose the control over military units in Karabakh. Kazimirov responded to this declaration with a rhetorical question: "Is Azerbaijan able to control the military operations in Karabakh?"

Kazimirov stressed, several countries are hindering the implementation of the Russian peace plan.

Yesterday evening Kazimirov and the CSCE Minsk group Chairman Jan Eliasson arrived from Baku to Yerevan. They were planning to leave for Stepanakert today.

RA [Republic of Armenia] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan accepted V. Kazimirov, J. Eliasson and Minsk Group's deputy chairman M. Mosberg on 13 May and discussed the problems in establishing a cease-fire in the conflict zone.

RA Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan, Special Envoy of the RA President David Shakhnazaryan, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Jirayr Liparityan participated in the meeting.

Foreign Ministry 'Pinning Certain Hopes' on CSCE Visit

LD1405104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2230 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 14 May—The Armenian Foreign Ministry is pinning certain hopes on the new visit to the region by a delegation of the Minsk group of the CSCE, adviser to the Armenian Foreign Minister Aram Safaryan told an ITAR-TASS correspondent on Friday [13 May] evening. In his opinion, the visit demonstrates an increased interest by the international community in the settlement of the Karabakh problem.

The Armenian spokesman thinks it is indicative that for the last two and a half years Vladimir Kazimirov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president, has arrived as a member of the CSCE mission. Armenia would like to see in this joint mission the symbol of expanding cooperation between the CSCE and Russia in uniting initiatives in the interests of the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, Aram Safaryan said.

It is absolutely obvious, he thinks, that the degree of hostility between the conflicting parties requires an adequate interference by international authorities who have weight and influence on the conflicting parties.

We think, the Armenian spokesman continued, that Russia is the only country at present that will agree to have a contingent of peace-making forces in the conflict region to disengage the forces. He said not only Russia but also some other countries could participate in the contingent and admitted that it was obvious that the willingness and readiness of Russia alone to resolve the conflict was not enough. Without such organizations as the United Nations and CSCE, it is difficult to imagine a comprehensive and long-term settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh, Safaryan said.

CSCE Minsk Group To Meet Karabakh Leaders in Yerevan

LD1505121194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Because of poor flying conditions, the delegation of the joint peace-making mission of the CSCE and Russia was today once again unable to fly out to Stepanakert for talks with the Karabakh leadership. As an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned, a decision was taken today to hold the meeting between Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group and Vladimir Kazimirov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president, and the leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in Yerevan.

Leaves Yerevan for Karabakh After Talks

LD1405130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1002 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 14 May—The ways of the settlement of the Karabakh conflict were the subject of the talks held in Yerevan today between Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and other members of the Armenian leadership, on the one hand, and Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh, his deputy Mathias Mossberg, and Vladimir Kazimirov, representative of the Russian president and head of the Russian mediatory mission on the other. The CSCE and Russian representatives arrived in Yerevan from Baku on Friday [13 May] evening.

It is not yet known what specifically was discussed at the talks. Armenian official services only confirmed the fact of the meeting.

In the afternoon the joint mission of the CSCE and Russia went to Nagorno-Karabakh where it will hold talks with the leadership of the Republic.

Peace Agreement on Karabakh Expected To Be Signed Soon

LD1505150694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Well-informed sources in Yerevan told INTERFAX that the Armenian and Azeri Defense Ministers and the commander of the Karabakh defense forces would be meeting in Moscow under the mediation of the Russian Defense Minister on 16 May.

Serge Sarakissyan, Mamedrafi Mamedov, Samvel Babayan and Pavel Grachev will be expected to confirm agreements negotiated on 18 February in Moscow and on 4 and 5 May, under the mediation of the Commonwealth's Interparliamentary Assembly, in Bishkek.

Armenian Deputy Defense Minister Asvatsatur Petrossyan told newsmen in Yerevan on 14 May that within three days a peace agreement would be signed to put an end, as early as this year, to the war in Karabakh.

According to Petrossyan, the Moscow meeting of the defense ministers and the commander of the Karabakh defense forces would concentrate on the scheduled introduction and deployment of a peacekeeping contingent in the area of the Armenian-Azeri conflict.

Petrossyan said Armenia would welcome the introduction of Russian peacekeepers into the disputed area.

He said that in the past five months 50 Azeri POW's and hostages had been exchanged for 25 Armenians. He said as many as 180 Armenians were listed as missing. Some 10 to 15 percent of these, he said, were civilians taken by Azeris off passenger trains.

Petrossyan denied rumors on the existence of POW concentration camps in Armenia.

Russia, CSCE Propose Cease-Fire Formula With Observers

LD1505160294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1449 GMT 15 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 15 May—During consultations with the leadership of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and also Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh], representatives of Russia and the CSCE proposed that the cease-fire agreement that was reached should be strengthened by giving it an appropriate formula which, in particular, provided for the stationing of international observers, according to a report for the press that was communicated to the ITAR-TASS correspondents here.

Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, plenipotentiary representative of the president of Russia in Nagornyy Karabakh, and Jan Eliasson, spokesman for the CSCE Minsk conference, who are touring the region of the conflict, also expressed satisfaction that the cease-fire agreement that was reached on 12 May between the defense ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the commander of the Army of Nagornyy Karabakh, with the mediation of Russia and the CSCE, had led to a decline in combat activity.

Defense Minister Meets Aide of U.S. State Secretary

LD1505142594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sarkisyan met Aide of the U.S. State Secretary for Coordination on Affairs of the CIS new independent states, James Collins, in Yerevan on 14 May. They discussed guarantees for security of the Nagorno-Karabakh population and the stages for establishment of peace in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict after the cease-fire. This was announced to INTERFAX by the Armenian Defense Ministry press center.

During the meeting Sarkisyan considered it necessary to separate the conflicting parties after the armistice with utilization of special forces. He suggested that this would guarantee security for the Nagorno-Karabakh population.

James Collins proposed that the U.S. and Armenian defense structures continue to cooperate.

The NATO Partnership for Peace program was also discussed at the meeting. Contrary to Georgia and Azerbaijan, Armenia has not as yet joined it.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Armenian President Expected To Sign Accord

NC1205195094 Baku TURAN in English 1705 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 12 May (TURAN)—The meeting between President Aliyev and Armenia's President Ter-Petrosyan is due to take place in Moscow in the upcoming days, reports sources from the Russian Foreign Ministry. Russia is acting as initiator and organizer of the Armenian-Azerbaijani summit.

"The presidents of both republics are expected to sign an agreement providing for a ceasefire, withdrawal of troops from captured territories, and a restoration of communications," reported the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reports that the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh will sign the agreement as well.

The agreement is to be based on the agreement signed in February 1994 by Azerbaijan's and Armenia's Defense Ministers as well as representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The key point of the agreement is the introduction of peacemaking separating forces in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

"In line with the agreement, Moscow will be the guarantor of the Armenian-Azerbaijani truce. The peacemaking forces can be referred to as international element to the CIS peacemaking forces, but they will be headed by Russian armed forces," told a highranking diplomatic source to Moscow's TURAN's correspondent.

NKR Foreign Minister on Bishkek Results

944K1220A Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 12 May 94 p 1

[Report by GOLOS ARMENII special correspondent in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic A. Beglaryan: "On the Bishkek Meeting Results"]

[Text] NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Minister of Foreign Affairs Arkadiy Gukasyan held a briefing on the results of the Bishkek meeting. The minister appraised as positive the following points: First, the realization that a political solution to the Karabakh problem is impossible without a guaranteed cease-fire; second, that it is simply impossible to stop the bloodshed without bringing in peacekeeping forces; and third, that there will be no progress in the resolution of the problem until Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized as a party to the conflict. A. Gukasyan noted that declarations should now give way to concrete cease-fire mechanisms and a guarantee of the nonresumption of military actions. In the opinion of the NKR head of foreign affairs, this mechanism should include the following components: the signing of a cease-fire agreement between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh (preferably with the participation of Russia and the CSCE Minsk Group); the fixing of the contiguity line; the symmetric withdrawal of conflicting parties' forces; maintenance on the front line of a minimal armed contingent necessary for defense but insufficient for an offensive; and so on.

The following steps are necessary in the political sphere: lift the communications blockade and provide guarantees that new ones will not be possible, and discuss the issue of political status, which should be resolved within the framework of a CSCE conference. According to A. Gukasyan, it could be foreseen from the very beginning that Azerbaijan would not sign the document, because it sent the second-ranking person in its parliament to the meeting. As is known, a few days ago the Republic of Azerbaijan leadership did indeed sign a protocol after making two changes to it: replacing the expressions "occupied territories" with "seized," and "bringing in observers" with "bringing in international observers." However, despite the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affair's requests to get a copy of the signed protocol from Kazimirov, it still has not been received.

"I cannot preclude the possibility that Guliyev has indeed signed the protocol;" said the minister, "however, we should not draw far-reaching conclusions. The Bishkek protocol calls for actions but does not go into detail on the implementation of the points it contains," continued A. Gukasyan. The minister did not preclude the possibility that the signed document may be another tactical move on the part of Azerbaijan. In the minister's opinion, now is the right moment to bring the Russian and CSCE initiatives closer together.

Parliamentary Session Postponed Indefinitely

LD1305124894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A session of the Azerbaijani parliament has been postponed indefinitely. The date for the next session has not yet been announced. Observers link this move with the fact that the parliamentary opposition intends to demand the resignation of Speaker Rasul Guliyev.

Cease-Fire Agreement Fails in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1305141394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The press service of the Karabakh defense forces says that in the past 24 hours fighting continued in the Agdam and Mardakert directions of the Armenian-Azeri theater of operations.

According to the press service, Azeri forces attempted, Thursday evening, to break the line of Karabakh defenses near the village of Yusifdjanly of the Agdamski District only to be driven back to their former positions Friday [13 May] morning.

Karabakh forces rebuffed several attacks in the north and north-east of the Mardakertski District where intelligence sources report a continued buildup of Azeri troops and military hardware.

On Thursday Karabakh forces took control of the village of Seisulan of the Mardakertski District.

Also on Thursday, at approximately 2030, Azeri forces opened rocket fire on the village of Berdashen of Karabakh's Martuninski District. According to preliminary counts, two women were killed and a dozen villagers received injuries.

Chief Serge Arushanyan of the defense forces' press service told INTERFAX Friday that Azerbaijan had violated yet another cease-fire agreement and would keep doing so until a peace-keeping contingent entered the troubled area. The warring forces were to have ceased fire at Thursday midnight.

In the meantime a well-informed source on the Azeri President's staff accused the Armenians of torpedoing the cease-fire negotiated Wednesday night by the Armenian and Azeri Defense Ministers and the commander of the Karabakh defense forces. The source told INTERFAX the Armenians were not ready to halt fire.

According to a source on the staff of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, Azeri forces wage trench warfare in Azerbaijan's Ter-Terski District which lies in the north-east of the theater of operations. Friday morning the Armenians resumed attacks in the direction of Ter-Ter.

The source said two Armenian tanks and three MICV's [as received] were destroyed over the past 24 hours.

More on Aliyev Comments on Meeting CSCE, Russian Officials

LD1305183594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdulayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku 13 May TASS—Important problems pertaining to the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict and the liquidation of its consequences are being discussed in Baku today.

At noon, Azeri President Geydar Aliyev met with the chairman of the Minsk CSCE group on Nagorno-Karabakh, Jan Eliasson, his deputy, Matthias Mosberg and plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president and special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Kazimirov, who arrived in the region on a special mission late on 12 May.

According to Aliyev, the current meeting in Baku means the beginning of a new stage in the Karabakh settlement. He believes that recently, the Minsk CSCE group has extended the framework of its activities and has taken a more realistic approach to the possibilities of the conflict settlement, relying on efforts made by all of its member-states. A positive assessment was given to its contacts with Russia and the Russian Foreign Ministry, in particular, for the purpose of the conflict settlement.

According to the Azeri president, "this can be regarded as a new qualitative level in the peace-keeping process."

Aliyev shares the opinion of Eliasson and Kazimirov about the importance of ceasefire as the necessary condition for the process of settlement. "I believe that the cease-fire should be followed by concrete practical steps, including immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from the occupied territories, strengthening measures of confidence and carrying out a programme envisaged by CSCE documents and Russia's proposals," Aliyev said. He is convinced that there should be no interval between these stages, since only on this condition real results in the settlement can be achieved.

Aliyev pointed out that the signing of the Bishkek protocol by Azerbaijan, which was received in Azerbaijan not unequivocally, was a correct step leading to cease-fire and the creation of conditions for lasting and reliable peace in the region, saying that there are the necessary grounds for this process. It is calm today in the area of the conflict, he said.

"Now we have to see to it that international observers make their contribution to what was achieved, taking under control the process of demilitarization and the withdrawal of occupying troops. This will inspire everyone with confidence that the peace-keeping process is irreversible," the Azeri president said.

Baku Reports Aliyev's Meeting With Eliasson, Kazimirov

NC1305212394 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev received CSCE Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson and Vladimir Kazimirov, President Yeltsin's special envoy, today. Aliyev welcomed his guests and said that he highly appreciates the role of the CSCE Minsk Group and the Russian Federation in the effort being made to resolve the Karabakh dispute. He said: The talks have entered a new stage. We have held talks with the leading officials of the CSCE Minsk Group and the representatives of the Russian Federation on the solution to the Karabakh problem. The significance the CSCE Minsk Group and the Russian Federation attach to the ending of the Karabakh dispute is in conformity with the laws. However, I am convinced that more work can be done if the CSCE Minsk Group and the Russian Federation adopt a common approach on the solution of the problem. We believe that more effective measures have to be taken and an optimal approach has to be adopted for the ending of the dispute.

Jan Eliasson stressed: We have reached a formative [preceding word in English] and responsible era in the effort being made to resolve the Karabakh dispute. A new opportunity has been created for the solution of that problem. We are convinced that a cease-fire must be implemented as the first step and then international observers must be sent to the disputed zone. We have agreed on those matters with the Russian leaders in Moscow and the CSCE's leading officials. We have also informed the UN Security Council. A group of international observers is ready to leave for the disputed zone. We need official approval on that matter. A [words indistinct] is being drawn up for the work of the observers. Later, measures will be taken in stages.

Vladimir Kazimirov said that he highly regards Jan Eliasson's views. He said: Russia is very interested in the resolution of the dispute and the establishment of peace. The sphere of our [word indistinct] and relations is very wide. The military units must withdraw from the occupied areas and problems related to the exchange of prisoners of war, refugees, and other issues must be resolved after the cease-fire agreement is implemented.

President Aliyev said that he is convinced that the initiatives made by the CSCE Minsk Group and the Russian Federation will quickly yield results and that the [words indistinct] will be realized.

Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan National Assembly; Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov; and Vefa Gulizade, state adviser on foreign policy, attended the meeting.

Russian Special Envoy Assesses Baku Gaydar-CSCE Group Talks

LD1305184994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku 13 May, TASS—Vladimir Kazimirov, Russia' plenipotentiary representatives and special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, described today's meeting in Baku attended by Azeri President Gaydar Aliyev and leaders of the CSCE Minsk Group as an event of great importance.

"It is not accidental that the world community and all the people of good will interested in the cessation of the Armenian-Azeri conflict have focused their attention on the meeting in Baku," Kazimirov said. In the opinion of the Russian envoy, "in any case, a prospect for the continuation of the bloodshed should be rejected," he said.

Kazimirov welcomed the concept of beginning a peacekeeping process from a cease-fire. "The most important thing now is to prevent the cease-fire and cessation of military operations from being disconnected from the next stage, in other words, to prevent the situation from coming to a deadlock, Kazimirov said.

"We must ensure the integrity of the process of settlement, and strictly consistent actions should be a reliable commitment, rather than a promise, by all parties concerned," the Russian envoy said. In his opinion, this can be achieved by means of a tangible political agreement binding the sides to observe it and on which the world community can rely on with certain confidence.

According to Kazimirov, the main goal of the Russian side as a mediator is to promote reliable, rather than prompt settlement of the conflict. The talks between the Azeri president, leaders of the Minsk Group and the special envoy of the Russian president were held behind closed doors and continued about four hours.

Late on Friday [13 May], the mediatory mission is leaving for Yerevan.

Opposition Party Spurns Russian-Brokered Deal With Karabakh

MK1405120094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Azerbaijan"]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Party of National Independence [APNI] has demanded that the Azerbaijani parliament speaker should resign. "By signing the Bishkek protocol together with Karen Baburyan, representative of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and thus effectively recognizing this entity, Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Rasul Guliyev committed an act of national treason that has drastically aggravated the sociopolitical situation in the country," the statement of the Republic's largest opposition movement says. It also emphasized: "Recognizing Russia as the sole mediator in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and signing the Bishkek protocol on 8 May, the Azerbaijani authorities have ratcheted up tensions in the Republic to a critical point. The signing of this document together with the so-called Nagorno- Karabakh Republic [NKR] will lead to international recognition of the NKR, the introduction of Russian troops into the conflict zone, and finally Azerbaijan's loss of control over part of its territory. Given that, the APNI states that it does not recognize the Bishkek protocol and requests that the National Assembly make a decision on the speediest possible dismissal of Speaker Rasul Guliyev, who has committed an unconstitutional act and overstepped his powers, and also that the president of the Republic express his attitude to the document.

Karabakh Claims Independent State Status

LD1605081594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0705 GMT 16 May 94

["Karabakh Claims Independent State Status—Minister"—ITAR-TASS headline; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 16 May TASS—"Karabakh want to be an independent state, although it does not rule out the possibility of reunification with Armenia in the future," the Republic's Defence Minister Arkadiy Gukasyan said in an interview with the newspaper AZG published in Yerevan, capital of Armenia. [sentence as received]

Gukasyan said Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh are fully independent of each other in their foreign political activity, which does not rule out coordination of certain positions. The views of Yerevan and Stepanakert differ on a number of points, but Armenia does not pressure Karabakh at all, the minister said.

According to Gukasyan, Nagorno-Karabakh republic's foreign policy is worked out in Stepanakert, and "if it does not coincide with the viewpoint of Armenian authorities, Yerevan understands that the Karabakh side must stick to its own view."

CSCE Negotiator Departs Yerevan for Baku

LD1605082894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 16 TASS—Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh Jan Eliasson has left Yerevan for Baku. He will resume consultations with Azerbaijani leaders on ways of settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Swedish diplomat stopped consulting with leaders of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday's evening. He expressed satisfaction with results of his meetings by saying that they made a serious contribution to the peace-making efforts in the region.

Ambassador-at-Large Vladimir Kazimirov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president, who also participated in the Yerevan talks, has already returned to Moscow, where a meeting between military leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno- Karabakh will take place shortly.

Deputy Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorno-Karabakh Mathias Mossberg and leaders of military planning system of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe are to participate in the Moscow meeting.

The Russian and CSCE representatives expressed satisfaction with the fact that military activities in the conflict area were on the small side and proposed to legalize the virtual ceasefire in a relevant agreement.

This agreement may provide for stationing international observers in the area, they said on Sunday.

Ministry of Defense on Violent Clashes in Rayons

NC1305184294 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Press Service has issued the following communique:

The Armenian military forces maintained combat operations in Terterskiy and Agdamskiy Rayons today. The enemy shelled two towns. Azerbaijan's military units inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces and destroyed a considerable amount of military equipment. They have also liberated a town from the enemy.

Our Army's officers and men have displayed heroism in the clashes. Violent clashes continued in Kelbadzharskiy, Terterskiy, and Agdamskiy Rayons today. Our troops have captured [words indistinct] in Seidlyar.

Armenian Troops Reportedly Attacking Terterskiy

NC1405204794 Baku TURAN in English 1627 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Baku, 14 MAY (TURAN)—Last night and this morning fighting in the north-eastern section of the front Terterskiy continued. TURAN's correspondent reports from the frontline that Armenian troops continue to take Terterskiy by its flanks. This morning Armenian units resumed their offensive towards the villages of Seysulan and Shotlanly [previous two names as received]. The Armenian Army is equipped with artillery, military hardware and has two infantry battalions. At presently fighting in this direction continues.

Military commandant reports that over the past week Armenian troops lost approximately 10 units of military hardware, four artillery units and dozens of automatic weapons in the Terterskiy region. About 400 Armenian soldiers were killed and wounded. The Azerbaijani Army lost one tank and 50 soldiers.

Armenian Forces Shell Azeri Positions

LD1505141994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] One Armenian tank was destroyed outside the Azeri administrative center Ter-Ter on Saturday [14 May] as fighting continues unabated there for the second day in a row, a source close to the Azeri Defence Ministry told INTERFAX.

Azeri Army positions outside Ter-Ter were shelled again by Armenian forces on Sunday morning.

In the meantime, the press service of defence forces of Nagorno-Karabakh reports that Karabakh forces came under attack outside Seisulan village of the Mardakert region late on Saturday and overnight.

There was relative calm on other parts of the front.

Moscow Bank Chosen for Bilateral Settlement Operations

MK1405123094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed INTERFAX report: "Most-bank Has Become Azerbaijan's Proxy"]

[Text] The Russian commercial Most-bank has been authorized by the Azerbaijan Government to conduct settlement operations between the two countries' enterprises, said Bagif Akperov, chief of the Azerbaijan Finance Ministry's Foreign Economic Relations Department. Under a signed agreement, Most-bank has the right to service and guarantee payments on export/import operations, open correspondence accounts for Azerbaijan commercial banks and enterprises, effect international settlements on special orders from the Azerbaijan government, and, on instructions from Azerbaijan residents, conduct transactions on international currency, and credit and bond markets.

Police Blockade Building of Independent Newspaper

LD1505154194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] On 14 May, the Baku police blockaded the building belonging to the AZADLYG independent newspaper and demanded that the newspaper's employees leave it. The police threatened to throw in the street all property of the edition, including computers, if its employees did not leave the building voluntarily.

The police stated that the measure had been carried out under the order of Baku Mayor Rafael Allakhverdiyev.

The Baku Mayor's Office refused to comment on the decision of the mayor saying he was not present at the office.

The AZADLYG was the newspaper of the Azerbaijani People's Front (now in the opposition) before summer, 1993. Now the newspaper reflects the point of view of the opposition and the Azerbaijani People's Front remains one of its sponsors.

On the same day the Turan independent news agency and several other editions which occupy the same building with the AZADLYG were demanded to leave it.

Editor of the AZADLYG newspaper Gyundyuz Tairli told journalists that he considered the actions by the police a a new wave of oppressions against independent media.

Georgia

'Powerful' Explosion Reported at Tbilisi Theater

LD1505111494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A powerful explosion occurred today at approximately 1300 in the Armenian Drama Theater building in Tbilisi. Interfax was informed of this at the press center of Georgia's Interior Ministry. According to preliminary information, there are people injured. No information about their number has been reported. Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has arrived at the scene.

Criminal Investigation Launched

LD1505161494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] There was an explosion in the hall of the Tbilisi Shaumyan Armenian drama theater today at about 1000 GMT just before the beginning of a performance. According to a report received from the Isani district police of Tbilisi, the explosion did not cause deaths. The hall has been damaged. Fourteen wounded people have been taken for treatment to the No. 1 city hospital.

The site of the incident has been visited by the leaders of the republic and representatives of the Interior Ministry and the Security Service.

A formal criminal case has been instituted and a criminal investigation has been launched in connection with this event.

Aim: 'To Wreck' Relations With Armenia

LD1505170694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1621 GMT 15 May 94

[Report by GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 15 May—A mass rally was held outside the building of the Tbilisi State Armenian Drama Theater, where there was an explosion during a performance today. Speakers at the rally said an attempt had been made to wreck the centuries-long brotherly relations between the Georgian and the Armenian people. They urged not to yield to the provocations of the enemies of both peoples and to oppose them with unity and joint actions for the sake of peace in the Caucasus.

Sandro Kavsadze, chairman of the committee on inter-ethnic relations and the protection of human rights of the Republic of Georgia, made a statement describing the crime as "directed against all of us and against Georgian statehood."

Explosion Called 'Terrorist Act'

LD1505190294 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Listen to the Georgian head of state's edict.

An explosion organized by criminals today, 15 May, inside the Tbilisi Armenian Drama Theater—known for its deep-rooted cultural traditions—causing injuries of various degrees to 16 people and inflicting significant material damages, shall be regarded as a provocative terrorist act carried out by enemies of the state.

1. Georgian Prosecutor-General [Jamlet] Babilashvili, Chairman of the Georgian Security Service [Igor] Giorgadze and Georgian Minister of Interior [Shota] Kviraia shall be instructed to secure the investigation of the above-mentioned terrorist act and the revealment of the criminals. The progress of the investigation shall be reported to me systematically.

2. The Georgian Republic Cabinet of Ministers and Tbilisi Mayor's office shall set up a special commission in order to secure a prompt assessment of the damages caused by the explosion and valuation of restoration works and shall take urgent measures to provide the theater with other necessary help.

[Signed] Mr Eduard Shevardnadze.

Tbilisi Sealed Off for Police Raid Against Criminals

LD1405212594 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1955 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpts] A large-scale operation against the criminal world was carried out in Tbilisi today. [passage omitted] Operations aimed at establishing peace and challenging criminal gangs and mafia clans were carried out in eight towns and rayons in the Republic.

This morning. Tbilisi was completely sealed off. Roadblocks were put up at the city's key junctions, and police, security and guard units started apprehending crime suspects, confiscating fire-arms and explosives from the population and unmasking drugs dealers.

More than 40 suspects, including 11 people wanted for serious crimes, were detained by 1000 in the morning. Some 30 automatic guns, machine-guns, dozens of hand grenades, pistols and grenade launchers were confiscated from citizens and criminals. The police discovered 100 stolen cars. A large number of drug addicts and dealers were unmasked. The operation is still under way.

It can be said that operations like this, especially when hundreds of law-enforcement officials are involved, can rarely be prepared in absolute secrecy. Nevertheless, one can say that the criminal world suffered a telling blow. [passage omitted]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] As for the fact that there is military hardware in the streets, I would like to stress that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its units have nothing to do with politics. We are not taking part in political discussion. Roadblocks were erected in order to give peace to our city. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Disengagement of Forces, Peacekeepers Agreed With Abkhazia

LD1505151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The Georgian and Abkhazian delegations to Moscow agreed on the disengagement of forces and the deployment of a Commonwealth peacekeeping contingent on the confrontation line on the Inguri river.

In line with a formal agreement signed Saturday [14 May] night, the Georgian and Abkhazian units are to move 12 km away from the river and a peacekeeping contingent is to take up positions inside the 24-km buffer zone.

On Sunday, a member of the Abkhazian delegation and a special emissary of the chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Andrey Djerghenia said Russian troops would most likely serve on the disengagement force.

He said the 2,500 to 3,000 strong contingent would be introduced before the end of May. Russian units deployed in Abkhazia would make part of it.

On Georgian demand, peacekeepers would patrol the Kodor canyon after the withdrawal from it of Georgian forces, Djerghenia said.

According to Djerghenia, the introduction of a peacekeeping contingent into Abkhazia paved a way to the repatriation of refugees, first of all to the Galski District.

In Moscow, the Georgian and Abkhazian negotiators agreed to form a joint commission on practical problems in the fields of power production, transport and comunication, environmental protection, etc. The four-member commission would be expected to start work on 1 June in Sochi.

The delegations agreed to discuss the status of Abkhazia next month in Geneva.

Shevardnadze Calls for Peace Settlement With Abkhazia

LD1505145194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze says that any refusal to sign an agreement on cease-fire and troop disengagement with Abkhazia during peace talks in Moscow would mean that Georgia was opting for a military solution.

In a televised interview late on Saturday [14 May], he said that "this could not be justified either from the point of our possibilities or morally."

Shevardnadze rejected opposition charges saying the Saturday peace deal infringed on Georgia's territorial integrity. "There is no word about Abkhazian sovereignty or statehood in the paper," he said.

This problem, he said, is to be solved at a later stage, and Abkhazia shall be given a new political status but within Georgia itself.

Nor did he accept one other allegation saying Russia wanted to send troops into the region to assert Abkhazia's independence and secession from Georgia. He expressed confidence about recovering the region soon.

Shevardnadze said that although he raised the question of a confidence vote in the head of state and transfer of power to parliament at private hearings on Friday, the deputies had not enough courage to discuss it. He spoke of staying away from the Saturday session to help them take a decision "but they failed to do so".

Shevardnadze said he was once again convinced how fatal it would be to transfer power to the incumbent parliament.

Meanwhile, Georgian deputes after two days of debates on Friday and Saturday have failed to reach any agreement what is to be done with the Moscow peace deal which provides for the disengagement of the warring sides and introduction of peacekeepers into a buffer zone along the Ingur river.

Our correspondent says it appears that the parliamentary resolution banning the Georgian delegation to sign any documents in Moscow has no legal force. By law, it is the country's head of state who is vested with powers to conduct negotiations or sign any papers on Georgia's behalf.

This must have been an eye opener to many deputies who would not have continued this pointless dispute for two days in a row otherwise, Deputy Speaker Vakhtang Rcheulishvili who leads a parliamentary majority supporting Shevardnadze told INTERFAX.

However, opposition leader Boris Kakubava disagrees. In an interview with Interfax, he said that the government's dismissal of the parliamentary resolution amounted to its disregard of the law. In his words, there can be no question of democracy in Georgia once a capitulatory deal has been signed in Moscow.

On the agreement itself, Kakubava said it helped Abkhazia to legitimize the genocide against the Georgian people and write off thousands of lost lives. "Our organization, the Alliance of the Liberation of Abkhazia expressing the interests of most refugees from Abkhazia is not going to put up with this," he said adding "we have our own way of how to return to Abkhazia."

The army will obey any orders from commander-in-chief and head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, a defence ministry spokesman in Tbilisi told Interfax. Troops and weaponry will be pulled back from the Ingur river and a buffer zone for peacekeepers set up, he said.

Threatens To Resign Over Abkhaz Agreement

LD1305192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1816 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told a closed parliamentary meeting Friday [13 May] that he would have to resign as head of state, deputy Tengiz Sigua told journalists.

Commenting on his decision, Shevardnadze said that if an agreement on a settlement in Abkhazia was not signed, Abkhazians would start to shell Zugdidi, Western Georgia.

According to Sigua, not only the parliamentary opposition, but also a number of representatives of the majority usually supporting Shevardnadze this time opposed his proposal to sign the Georgian-Abkhazian agreement on settlement in Abkhazia. In particular, deputy Nodar Natadze said that if the agreement was signed as it was, it would mean Tbilisi's complete capitulation before Abkhazian leaders.

Earlier this afternoon, deputies prohibited the Georgian delegation in Moscow from signing any documents during negotiations with Abkhazia until a special parliamentary decision had been taken. The ban was caused by unacceptable concessions envisioned by the agreement, which was planned to be signed in Moscow Friday.

However, parliamentary sources in Tbilisi reported that the ban was of a recommendatory character. Though as many as 88 deputies voted in favor of the decision, it was insufficient for a qualified majority of 112 votes. The Georgian parliament is expected to continue the discussion of the Georgian-Abkhazian settlement agreement Saturday, 14 May.

Shevardnadze Not To Resign

LD1405082194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] We have just received a report from Tbilisi, clarifying an earlier item from there, which said that Eduard Shevardnadze had resigned.

Well, he has not resigned, the RIA agency reports. He has proposed a switch to a different form of government. An agency correspondent was told by someone in Shevardnadze's entourage that an address by the head of the Georgian state at a closed sitting of parliament had been misunderstood.

Vote to Strip Shevardnadze of 'Special Powers' Discussed

LD1405170394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1529 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Today's special session of the Georgian parliament debated the supreme legislative body's protocol decision [protokolnoye resheniye] adopted by a majority of votes yesterday that does not allow the Georgian delegation to sign any documents at the Moscow talks on the Abkhazian conflict.

During today's session, a number of parliamentarians put forward the issue of stripping the head of state of his special powers relating to reaching a settlement in Abkhazia. However, owing to the absence of the quorum at the evening sitting, the issue was not put to the vote.

Since some deputies believed the protocol decision adopted yesterday had no legal power, a proposal was made firstly to hold a vote on stripping the head of state of his powers regarding Abkhazia and then vote for a second time on yesterday's protocol decision.

This resulted in heated debate among deputies, which signaled the end of the session.

U.S. Official Finds Talks with Shevardnadze 'Useful'

LD1405170794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1210 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian Supreme Council chairman and head of state, met James Franklin Collins, a U.S. State Department envoy, the chief coordinator of relations with the newly-created independent states [name and title as received]. The meeting was attended by Kent Brown, the U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze; Valeriy Vashakidze, the chairman of the committee for Refugees and Displaced People, and other officials.

I am happy to get yet another opportunity to demonstrate support for Georgian democracy and the progressive course taken by the Georgian Government, said James Franklin Collins. The guest regarded as useful the discussion he had had with the Georgian head of state over current difficulties in Georgia, basically on the issue of retaining the territorial integrity of Georgia. We have repeatedly expressed our political support over this issue, he said.

Members of the U.S. State Department delegation have emphasized that the Abkhazian issue is a very difficult political and humanitarian issue. Therefore, the United States has not and will not spare efforts to draw the attention of the world community to democratic processes under way in Georgia. We can assure you that the United States has a significant interest in a democratic Georgia, they said.

The head of state expressed special gratitude for the visit of the U.S. delegation and emphasized the importance of meetings held in various ministries, departments, and organizations. He said, in particular, that this was the implementation of agreements on bilateral cooperation signed in Washington. Each step from your side is of a vital importance for Georgia, said the head of state in conclusion.

Parliament Discusses Draft Agreement on Abkhazia

LD1305163094 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1235 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 13 May—The Georgian Parliament is discussing the Georgian-Abkhaz draft agreement. Eduard Shevardnadze is not attending the session despite the deputies' call on him to do so. His absence was supposedly justified by the fact that he was meeting a U.S. delegation, but this turned out to be untrue.

The draft envisages separation of the sides, a cease-fire, and the introduction of peacekeeping forces along the confrontation line. The draft caused a protest from not only the opposition but the governing majority as well, for the following reasons:

A. The draft envisages introduction of peacekeeping forces not throughout the whole Abkhaz territory but solely along the Enguri River;

B. The draft envisages withdrawal of the Georgian Army formations from the Kodori gorge, which is the only base for the Georgian armed forces in Abkhazia;

C. Peacekeeping forces will not be responsible for the defense of the refugees, which means that the refugees will not be able to return to Abkhazia.

The leader of Abkhazia's Liberation Organization, Boris Kakubava, demanded Shevardnadze's immediate resignation and called his supporters traitors to the country.

Opposition members put to a vote the draft resolution, which forbids the Georgian delegation to sign any document in Moscow before the Georgian Parliament makes a decision. A parliamentary majority then left the hall, resulting in there being no quorum, but the issue was still put to vote.

The decision was adopted not in the form of a resolution, but a recommendation, which enables the Georgian delegation to sign the agreement as a recommendation, which has no legal force.

The situation remains tense.

Cease-Fire Draft 'Shameful', Shevardnadze's Role 'Vague'

LD1305170494 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi 13 [May]—Talking to an IBERIA news agency correspondent, a deputy of the Georgian parliament, Nodar Natadze said a draft agreement on a cease-fire and separation of forces worked up during current Abkhaz-Georgian talks in Moscow is a shameful and capitulatory document.

Nodar Natadze said that the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's change of stance is difficult to understand. Also difficult to understand is Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze's role in the issue.

Parliamentary Majority's Statement on Abkhazia Agreement

LD1505181094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A statement by the parliamentary majority:

On 13 May, 88 deputies unanimously passed a protocol resolution in the absence of quorum at a closed session of the parliament. This resolution demanded that the delegation authorized to hold meetings on the Abkhazian issue in Moscow not sign any agreement or memoranda without the parliament's consent. Another 39 deputies associated themselves with the resolution later.

According to legislation currently in force in Georgia, a protocol resolution has no juridical power. Namely, it is not recognized by the Law on State Authorities. It can neither be called an official resolution because a required procedure has not been accomplished. However, this decision has a political significance because it demonstrates the attitude of members of parliament towards the document, some articles of which are painful for the Georgian party.

Meanwhile, a considerable part of deputies regards an overall wreck of the talks as impossible. Two days of debates have demonstrated that the parliament failed to take responsibility for the process of talks. Besides, we take into consideration that the head of state received important guarantees, which give hope for the favorable development of the process for us.

We believe the only correct way out in the present critical circumstances is the head of state's action on the authority conferred to him by law.

We believe today a real way to secure a dignified return of refugees to Abkhazia and a final restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity is through cooperation with Russia, which will become a basis for the levers of the collective security of the CIS countries.

We believe the United Nations, which has been actively involved in the settlement of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict since the very beginning, will not spare efforts to ensure the implementation of its peacekeeping mission in Abkhazia is in full accordance with paragraphs of the UN Charter and the interest of the Georgian statehood. We also pin hopes on the CSCE participation in the peaceful settlement of this conflict.

The process has started and its cessation could only bring our state to a chaos and territorial disintegration.

Foreign Minister Says Abkhazia's New Status Unacceptable

LD1305185894 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] James Franklin Collins, The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's assistant and chief coordinator of relations with the newly-created independent states [name and title as received], arrived in Tbilisi today. At the airport he was met by Kent Brown, the U.S. ambassador in Georgia, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze, and other officials.

[Begin Collins recording, in English with superimposed Georgian translation] I have arrived in Tbilisi to speak to Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian head of state, and assure him of our support. I also want to make my own contribution to the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. I am sure that Eduard Shevardnadze feels this support and he makes all efforts to reach a political [word indistinct] and further economic development. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] Later, the U.S. delegation had a meeting with the Georgian foreign minister during which the parties spoke about the current difficult political and economic situation in Georgia, humanitarian aid for Georgia, and the Abkhazian issue.

[Begin Chikvaidze recording] The current situation and circumstances in Abkhazia were still the chief issue at the meeting. They have eagerly demonstrated their viewpoint on this issue. They want to provide maximum help to Georgia. There is no second thought about the preservation of Georgia's territorial integrity. They wanted to know if any progress was observed in the issue of Abkhazia's political status. I revealed our position to them. As for the latest talks about an incredible formula of an ostensible alliance of two countries, Abkhazia and Georgia, we rule this out categorically. I have told them that the only thing we could consent to was what Abkhazia had had before, an autonomous republic and Georgians and Abkhazians living side by side as they used to, and we will not go beyond this. [end recording]

Armored Cars Arrive Before Debate on Abolishing Presidency

NC1405090494 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 14 May (AFP)—Several armored cars took up positions Saturday in the Georgian capital Tbilisi ahead of a debate in parliament on President Eduard Shevardnadze's challenge to deputies to abolish the post of presidency.

The armored cars were reinforcing police checkpoints already in place for several days in the center of the town, witnesses said.

Shevardnadze submitted Friday [13 May] his resignation and proposed abolishing the presidency to protest the deputies' refusal to ratify an accord towards settling the conflict with the separatist republic of Abkhazia in western Georgia.

Ramaz Sakavarelidze, Shevardnadze's press officer, quoted by the Georgia news agency IPRINDA said that Shevardnadze would remain parliamentary speaker, a post to which he was elected in October 1992.

Shevardnadze has been head of state since his election in November 1992.

The deputies fear the accord will authorize the secession of Abkhazia. The accord, to be signed Sunday by Georgian and Abkhazian delegations in Moscow, calls for deploying Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) troops in a 12-kilometre (7.2 mile) security zone separating Abkhazia from the rest of Georgia.

Georgia has been hit since becoming independent in 1991 by a series of political crises, including two civil wars and the Abkhazian secession struggle, at a time when the national economy is in ruins.

Hunger Strike Threatened If Abkhaz Agreement Signed

LD1405172294 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1529 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A large number of people, including refugees from Abkhazia, gathered in front of the Georgian parliament today. They wrote a statement that was later read at the evening sitting of parliament. The statement demands that the Georgian-Abkhaz agreement should not be signed and yesterday's decision by parliament should be complied with. In the case of the opposite happening, a hunger-strike would be staged outside the parliament building.

Prime Minister Patsatsia Receives EBRD Delegation

LD1405222094 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1955 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Today Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia received an EBRD delegation led by (Jonathan Roberts). The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili.

The bank's seven representatives and 11 consultants have spent three weeks working in Georgia. Mr (Jonathan Roberts) said their task was to gather full information on the situation in Georgia and report to the bank's board, which is to meet in the first week of July.

The conversation outlined the main aspects of the assistance program for Georgia. These include restoring Georgia's energy potential, developing the transport industry and telecommunications. Georgia will receive vital credits if it takes into account World Bank, IMF, and EBRD recommendations which envisage raising tariffs to world levels.

It was noted that a number of necessary laws still did not exist.

The prime minister thanked guests for their fruitful work and expressed the hope that it would be followed by tangible assistance. Reviving the country's industry depends on the development of power engineering and therefore it should be given special attention. As for the transition to the market economy, it is an irreversible process.

Turkish Delegation Arrives; Met by Shevardnadze

LD1605083394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] A parliamentary delegation from the Republic of Turkey led by His Excellency Husamettin Cindoruk, speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, arrived in Tbilisi yesterday.

The esteemed guest was met at Tbilisi airport by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council and head of state, Supreme Council Speaker Vakhtang Gogudze, and Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze.

The delegation will take part in the work of a meeting of the Assembly of Countries of the Black Sea Basin, which opens today at the Metechi Hotel in Tbilisi and will last for two days.

Nodar Komakhidze, Georgian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Turkey, accompanies the delegation.

Yesterday the guest had a meeting and discussion with head of state Eduard Shevardnadze.